BIG COMICS SPECIAL

宗像教授異考録

第三集

星野之宣

小学館
BCS0549

宗像教授異考録

Munakata Kyouju Ikouroku

第三集

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Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

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ブックデザイン＊木谷正和［エクスプリム］

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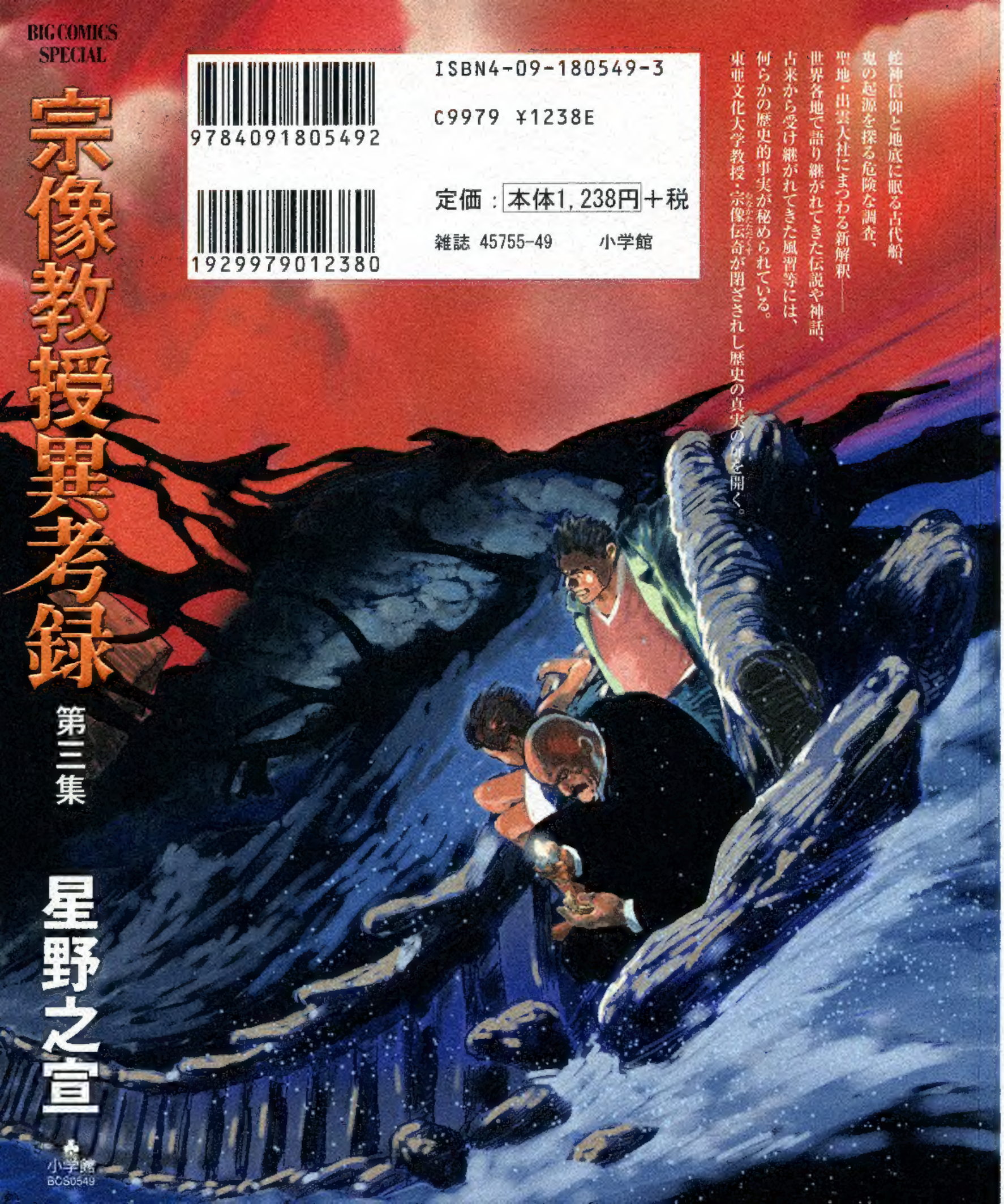
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蛇神信仰と地底に眠る古代船、
鬼の起源を探る危険な調査。
聖地・出雲大社にまつわる新解釈――
世界各地で語り継がれてきた伝説や神話、
古来から受け継がれてきた風習等には、
何らかの歴史的事実が秘められている。
東亜文化大学教授・宗像伝奇（むなかたでんくす）が開ざされし歴史の真実の扉を開く。



小学館
BCS0549

京都市埋蔵文化財研究所

Kyoto City Archaeological Institute

THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

宗像教授異考録

Collection 3

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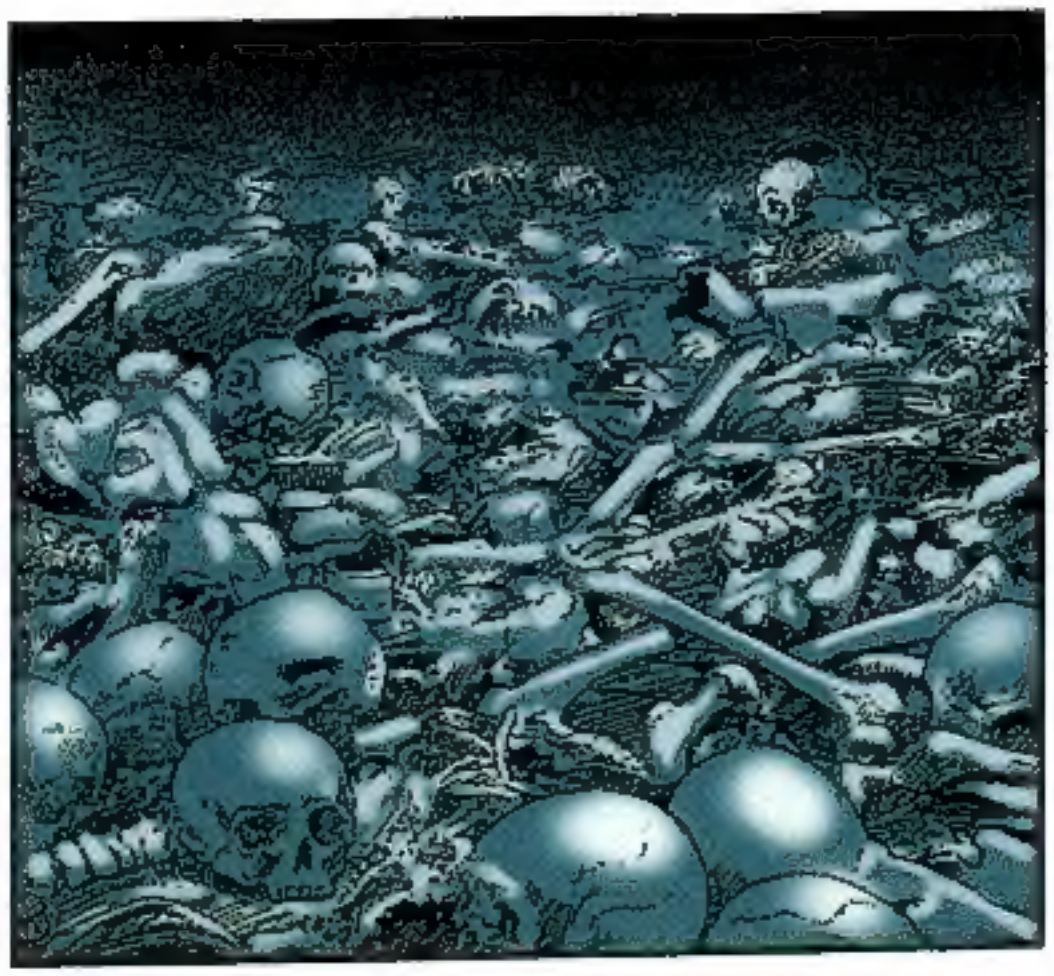


4


They seem to have conducted a sacrificial ritual right here under-ground.
A couple friends of mine just stumbled upon it.
It's the Jomon serpent god "Mishaguchi" ...

Mishaguchi was said to have been worshipped all throughout ancient Japan...

And the center of this faith was here at the foot of the Yatsugatake Mountains, in Suwa!





Nagano Prefecture
Suwa Region

Mt. Misa

W... Well...

So I want you to use your authority as local archaeologists to preserve these ruins as soon as possible...

WHO SAID THAT!?

IS IT TRUE THAT THE GIANT STATUE IS BEING CARRIED OUT!?

WHEN WILL THE MISHAGUCHI RUINS BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!?

Imibe Kana ...!?

Members of the press, thank you for coming out here! As I said in my announcement, my company has just purchased the entire Mt. Misa region!

C... COME AGAIN !?

And naturally, the Mishaguchi Ruins underneath it will fall under our management!

A man who's made tens of billions off web portals.

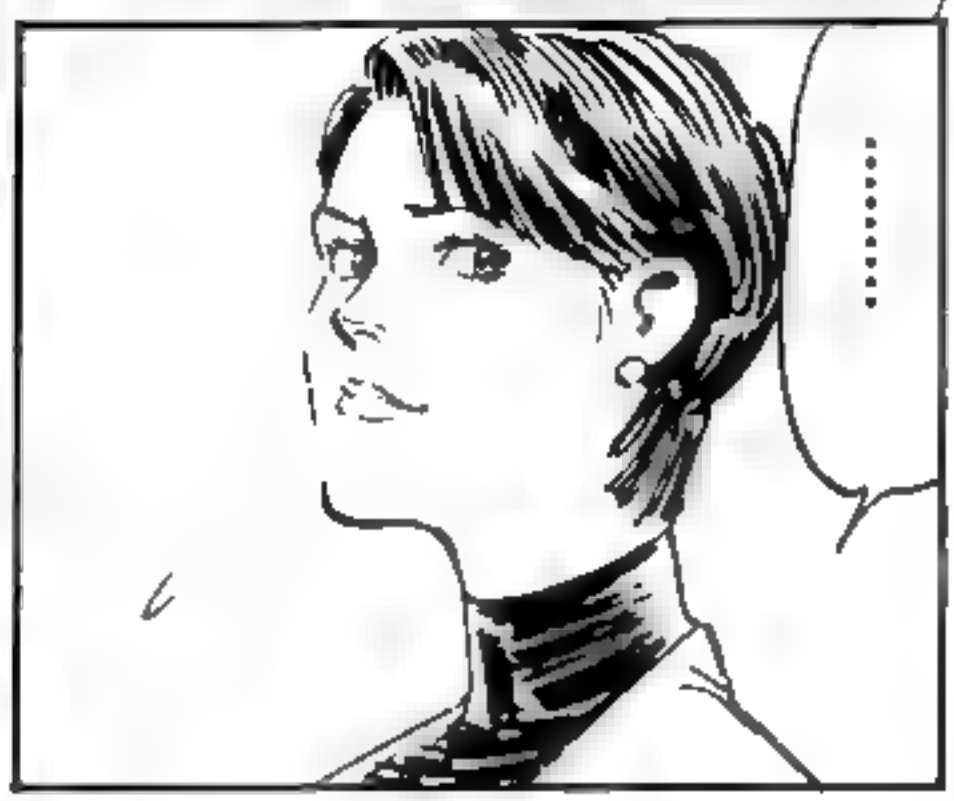
Amino Toyo masu, the IT billionaire.


It's true. I'm sorry to say, but he purchased this land so quickly, there was nothing we could do...


Is it true you'll be building a Jomon Museum in Tokyo?
Are you going to uproot the statue to carry it?
I was raised in Suwa up until Middle School, so it's a great honor to be involved with this area once again.


Well, this is good. Now the media will give me some free publicity. Hehehe...


STARE...


.....

You'd better watch yourself. There are snakes in there.

!

Professor Munakata, I take it? Nice to meet you...

.....

8

Wow...

10


I think we'll need to open up the ceiling to take it out. Should we bring a helicopter?


.....


But if we make a realistic exhibition in Tokyo, it'll draw thousands upon thousands of guests.
There's barely any tourists in these mountains, so leaving it here is pointless.


Are you crazy!? Ruins ought to be preserved in their original location! You could damage it if you try to remove it!


If it breaks, that just means I have to fix it.

9


Oh, please, don't put it like that!
What's the meaning of this, Imibe!? Are you trying to prey on these ruins with him!?

Of course, it's my job to write the book.

I can't afford to live the high life like a university professon so what choice do I have?

They're going to turn this ruin's study, transport, and exhibition into a massive project, including books and TV documentaries.

This was all planned by his affiliate publisher

HEY, DON'T GO ANY DEEPER! THERE'S A CLIFF...

Does this keep on going all the way back...?

Water ...?

Waw ah...

GRAB ON TO SOME-THING! QUICK-LY!!

S... SOME-BODY HELP!!

WAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA UGH !!

QUIT SQUIRM-ING AND GRAB ON TO SOME-THING!!

WAA AAA AAA AAA AAA UGH !!

!

PRO-FES-SOR MUNA-KATA!?

MR. AMINO!

PROF ...!!

Ahhh, this is just awful!

H... HEY! I CAN'T SWIM! HELP ME!

MR. AMINO! ARE YOU HURT? ARE YOU AL-RIGHT!?

H... HEY! WE'RE DOWN HERE!!

WE'LL CALL FOR RESCUE RIGHT AWAY! JUST HANG TIGHT!

fzzzt...

.....

Click!

You hear that, Mr. Amino? Just stay there and don't try anything stupid!

Mine's water-proof.

I never thought it was this deep... I can't see much, but it probably goes on for a while.

I've studied the ancient people's serpent faith myself, Professor Munakata.

But this traces back to the Sea Serpent Faith in Izumo.

The Serpent God is enshrined on Mt. Miwa in Nara...

I also think there was a Sea Serpent Faith in West Japan, centering around the seafolk of Izumo.

But the myth we have today was a forcible fusion of the Eastern Mishaguchi and the Western Sea Serpent.

Takeminakata fled to Suwa, and surrendered there.

The Nation-Yielding Myth... Takeminakata of Izumo resisted the demands of the gods of Takamagahara, with Amaterasu's grandson as their Forerunner to yield the nation to them, and had his arms torn off.

This was a contrivance to fuse him with the ancient Jomon serpent god, Mishaguchi of Suwa, and submit them both to the sun goddess of Takamagahara. That is why they took his arms to give him the appearance of a snake.

I wrote about this in further detail in my thesis "The Snake Gods' Fusion"...

Koga Saburo...

I just remembered that there was a legendary figure that was later equated with Takeminakata.

Koga Saburo lived in the province of Omi (Shiga Prefecture), where his brothers plotted against him and dropped him into a deep cave.

After years upon years of wandering in the underground world known as the "Cave of Man", when he finally came out he was in Suwa... and Saburo had transformed into a snake.

Fascinating...? I can't believe you two can talk about that at a time like this!

I see. Koga Saburo's legend of the Cave of Man has "Suwa" and "transforming into a snake" in common with the myth. Fascinating.

Are you suggesting this is the "cave of man"!? That's ridiculous!

HEY! HAS THE RESCUE TEAM COME YET!? HEY!!

Hmm?

They'll come soon enough! Just calm down!

T...This can't be...

A boat... And it's awfully long...

WHAT'S A BOAT DOING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NAGANO ...!?

W... WHAT DO YOU TWO KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME!?

A Yayoi...

I was thinking the same... But what does this mean!?



QUICK! GET ON!!

KNEE

AIIIIr
IIEE
EEE
EEE
EEE
EEE
!!



In 1994, a late Yayoi clay vase was excavated from the "Arao South Ruins" in Ogaki, Gifu Prefecture, which depicted a shocking petroglyph.

In other words, it was presumed to be a boat over 50 meters long, capable of carrying 82 passengers.

It was an ancient boat with 82 oars...

The boat must have sailed the ocean that once reached as far as Gifu.

The Nihon Shoki tells of a quick ship (a high speed boat for relaying critical information) called "Yasoka", which was rowed by 80 people, and this was evidence for its existence

B...BUT WHAT'S A SECOND-CENTURY BOAT DOING UNDER-GROUND ...!?

THE BOAT MAY HAVE DRIFTED INLAND, PERHAPS BY A FLOOD OR A TSUNAMI...

T...THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW! HOW FAR IS THIS CURRENT TAKING US!? THIS BOAT WON'T HOLD US FOR LONG...!!

AAA AAA AAA HHH HHH HHH HH !!

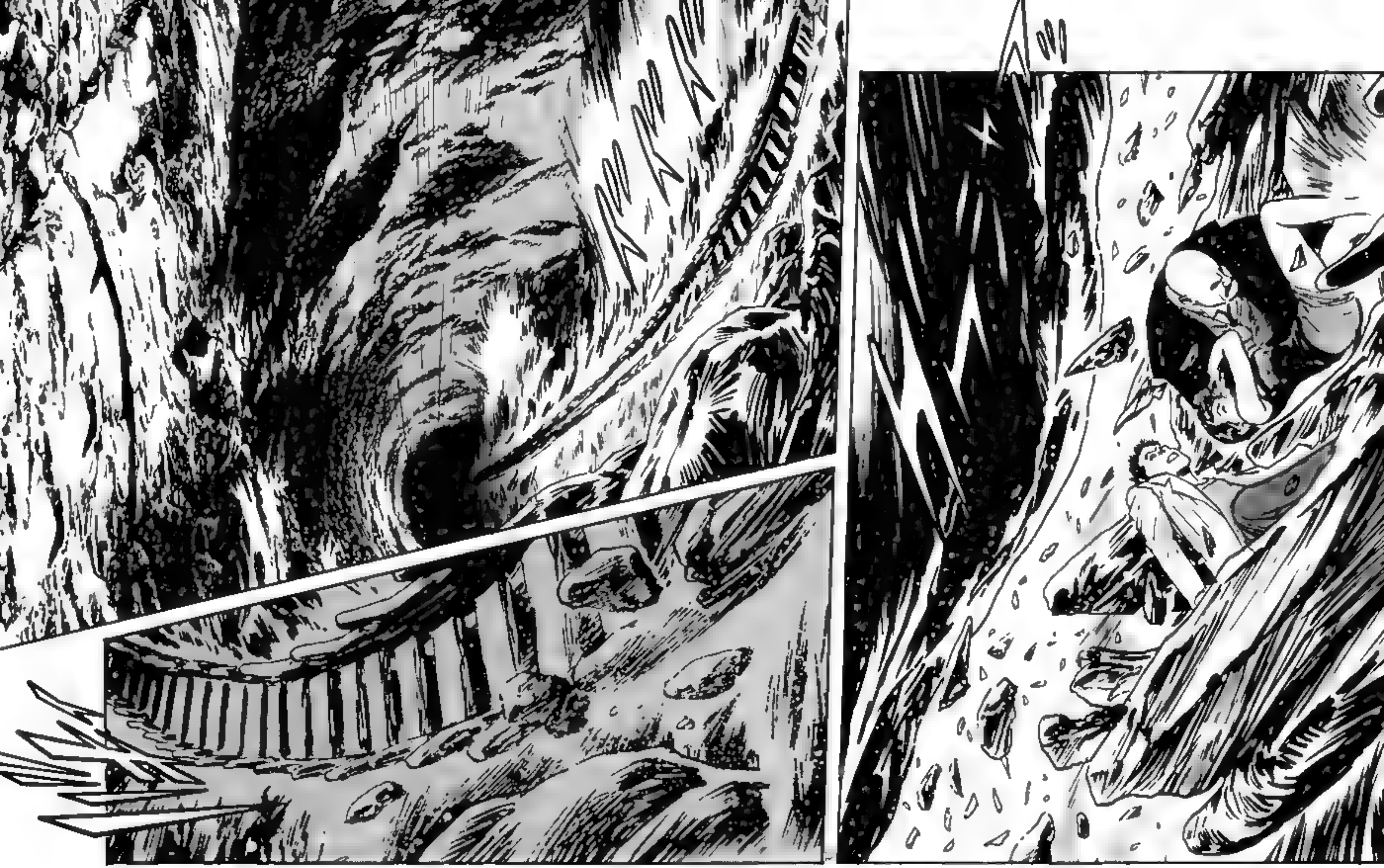
W...WE'RE NOT SINKING! THE RAPIDS ARE JUST FLOWING FASTER THAN US! HOLD ON TIGHT!!

WAAAA AAUGH ...!!



West... No, southwest!

WE'RE FLOAT-ING SOUTH-WEST...!



WAAA AAAU GH!!

I'm only helping you because you'd sink like a stone if I didn't

Thanks, Imibe...

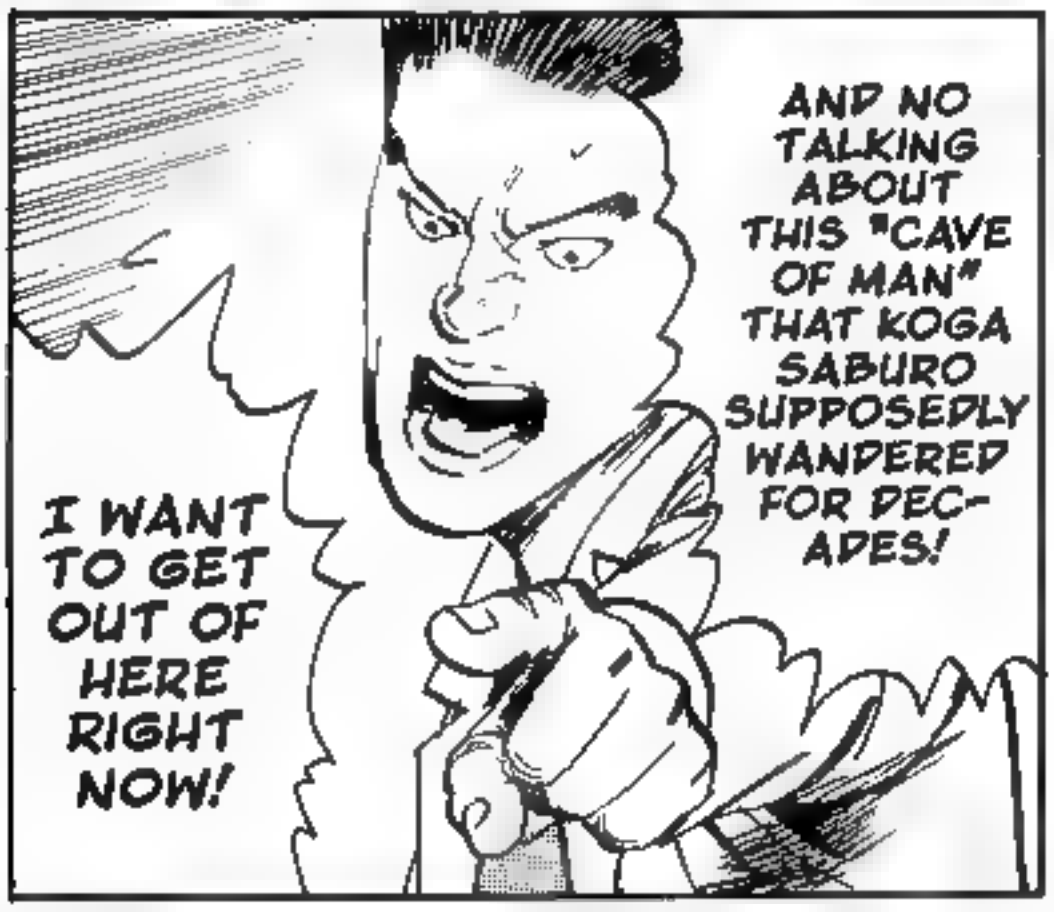
Feels more like we were in that for a whole day...

It was around 10 o'clock AM right before we started drifting. So it's been four hours...

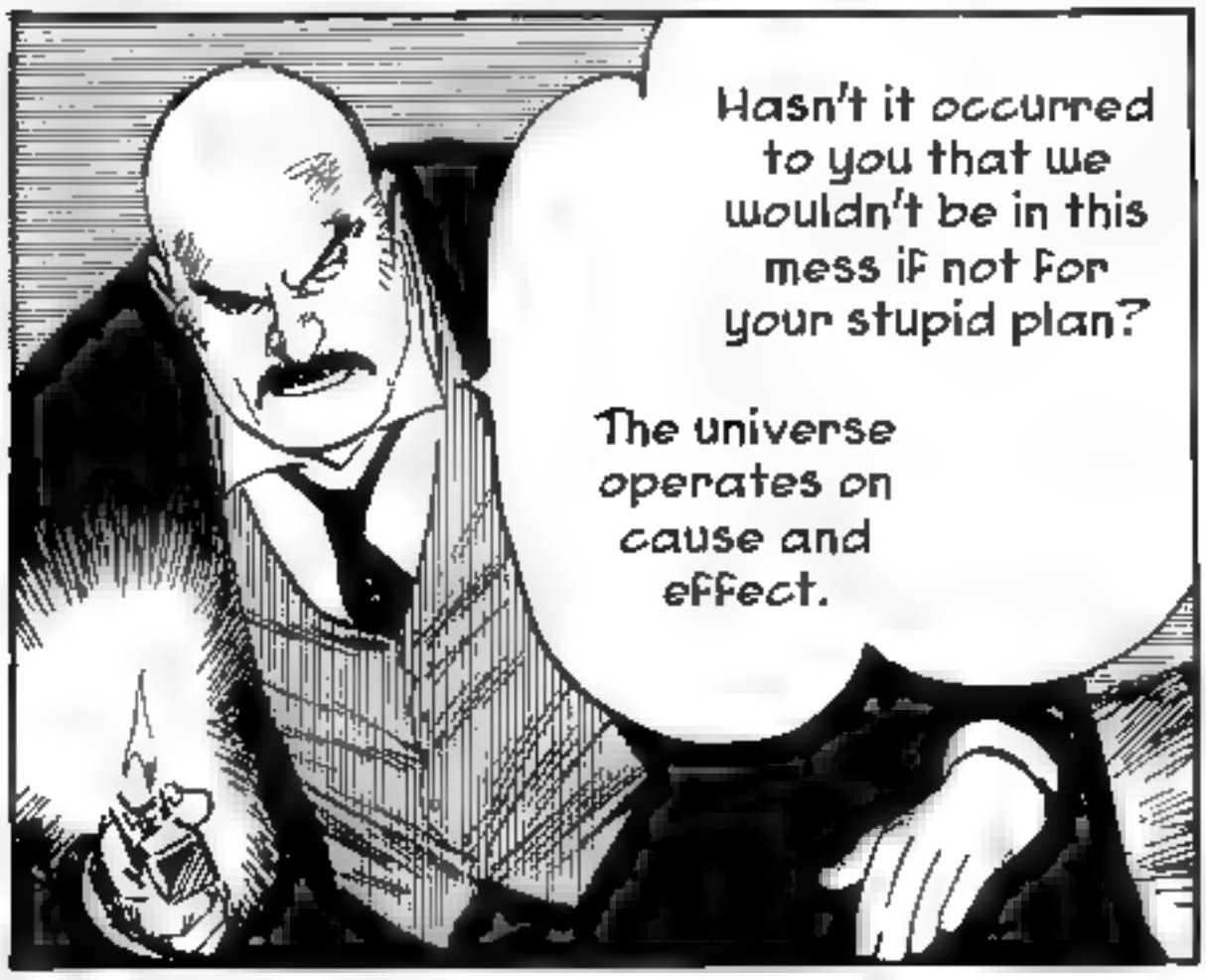
Suwa
Gifu
Nagano
Ogaki
Shiga
That means we've moved from Suwa, Nagano all the way to Ogaki, Gifu!
then we've gone at least 150km south-west...
Assuming that the average current speed was 40 km/h, give or take...
You mean... that this was a natural underground canal? That the boat would travel in between Gifu and Nagano...?
Gifu !?

It can't have been a very common phenomenon.
A string of incredibly rare coincidences, perhaps during the spring thaw, may have connected these caves with water

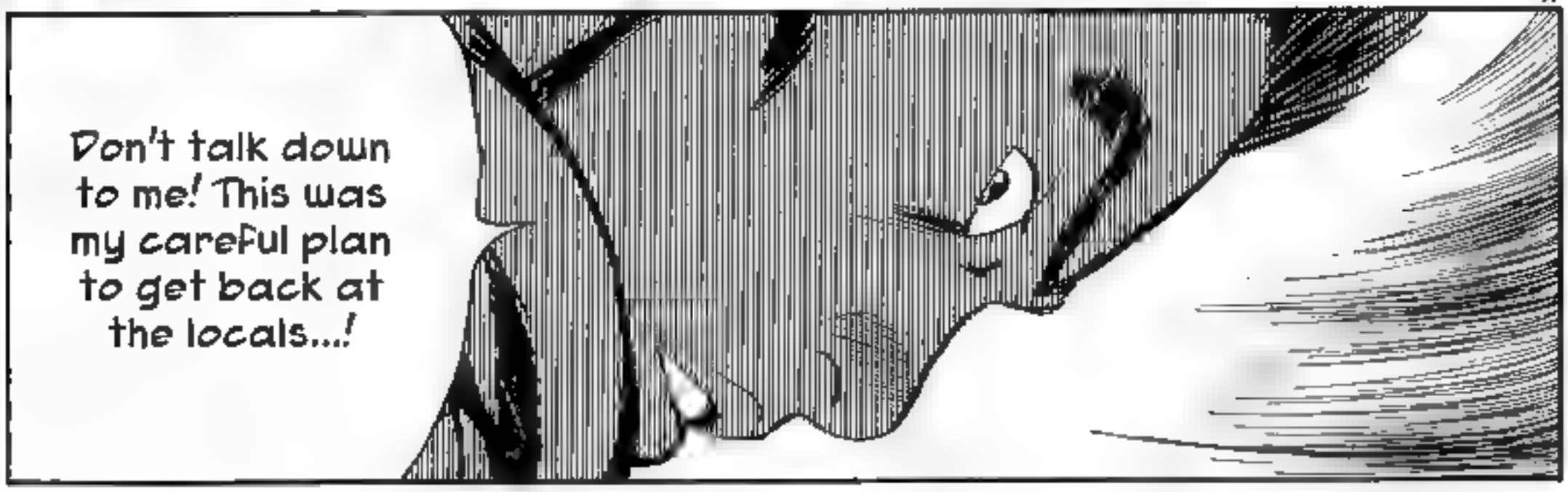



I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW!
AND NO TALKING ABOUT THIS "CAVE OF MAN" THAT KOGA SABURO SUPPOSEDLY WANDERED FOR DEC-ADES!


HOW ARE WE GONNA TELL THE RESCUE TEAM? THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD BE USING YOUR HEADS FOR!
SO WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GONNA DO NOW!? WE'VE DRIFTED 150KILOM-ETERS!


Hasn't it occurred to you that we wouldn't be in this mess if not for your stupid plan?
The universe operates on cause and effect.


...Goddammit! What's going on!? Why is this happening!?


Don't talk down to me! This was my careful plan to get back at the locals...!

Wait! Professor Munaka-ta...

This...

is a statue of En-no-Gyoja ....!!

En-no-Ozunu... A seventh-century mystic served by the demons Zenki and Goki.

What's he doing here...?

He's famous for worshipping the Eight Great Dragon Kings, the guardian deities of Buddhism...

He's said to be the founder of Shugendo, so maybe the Shugenja built it... If not...

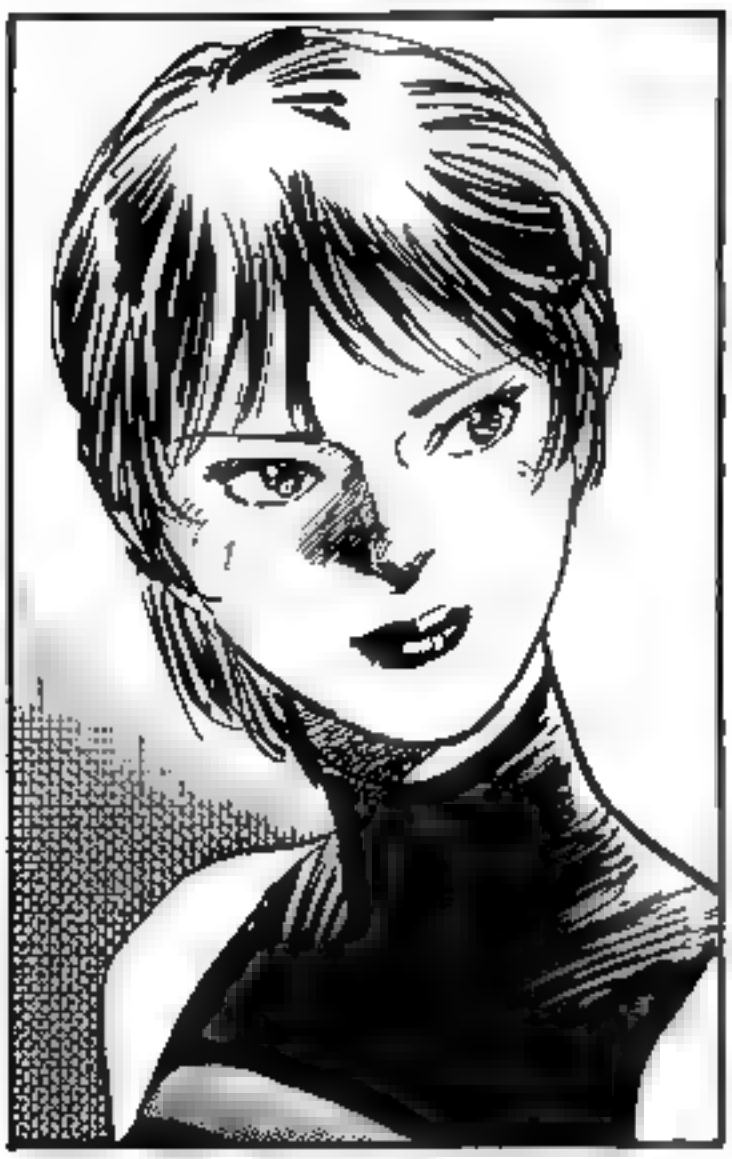
Eight Great Dragon Kings...?

Perhaps we should've stayed there and waited for help, but I'd much rather get away from those snakes...

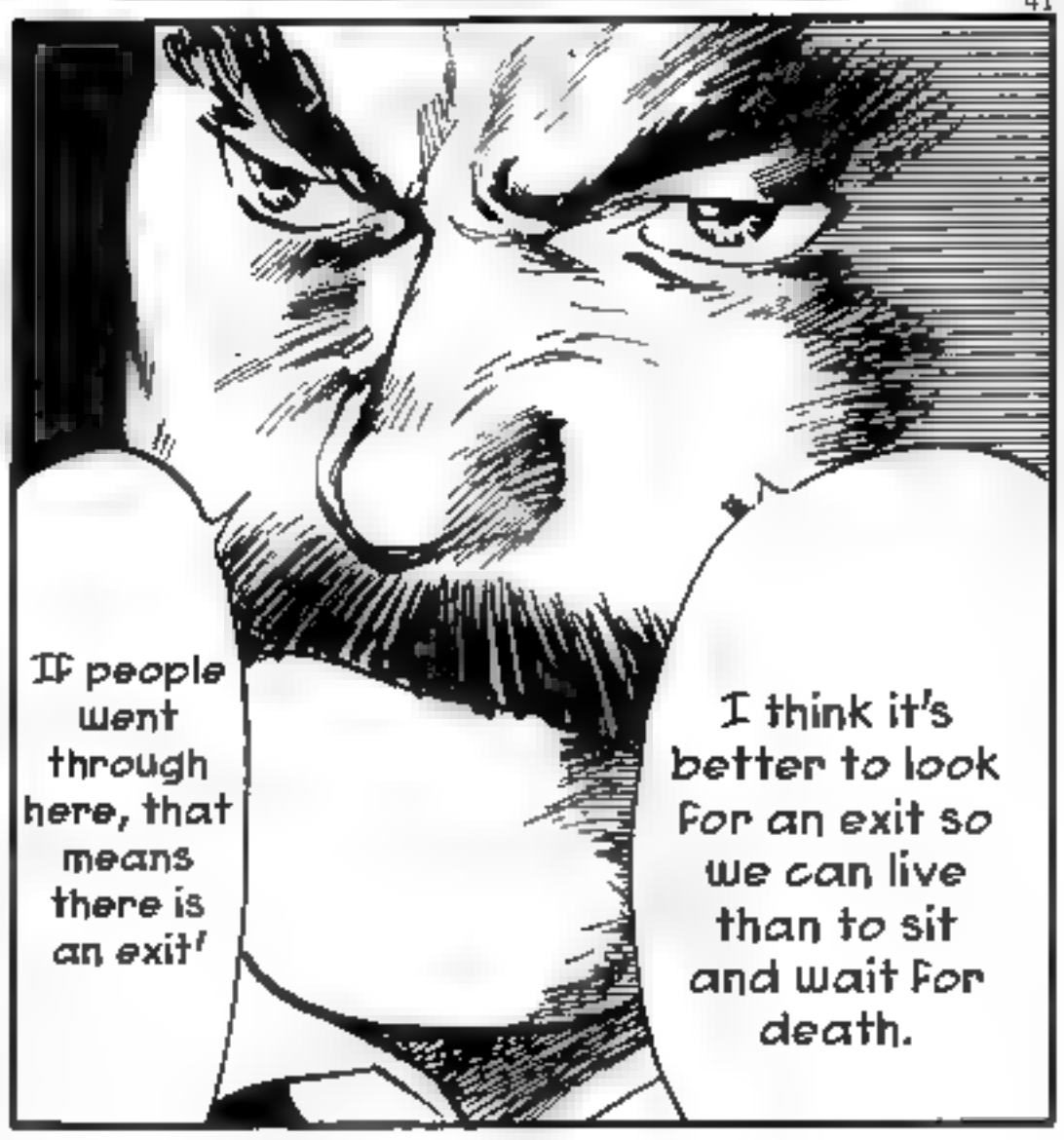

You're the one who said we should start walking!
Well, don't ask me.


How far are we gonna walk? Even if it's true that people travelled through here, where's the exit!?


We can wait for them, but we have no food and no light. We'll hit our physical and mental limits eventually.
I have my doubts that the search party will come this far. They don't know about the boat we rode on, and they'll most likely think we drowned in the rapids.






If people went through here, that means there is an exit!
I think it's better to look for an exit so we can live than to sit and wait for death.

It's cold...

.....

.....

But I saved you from drowning twice.

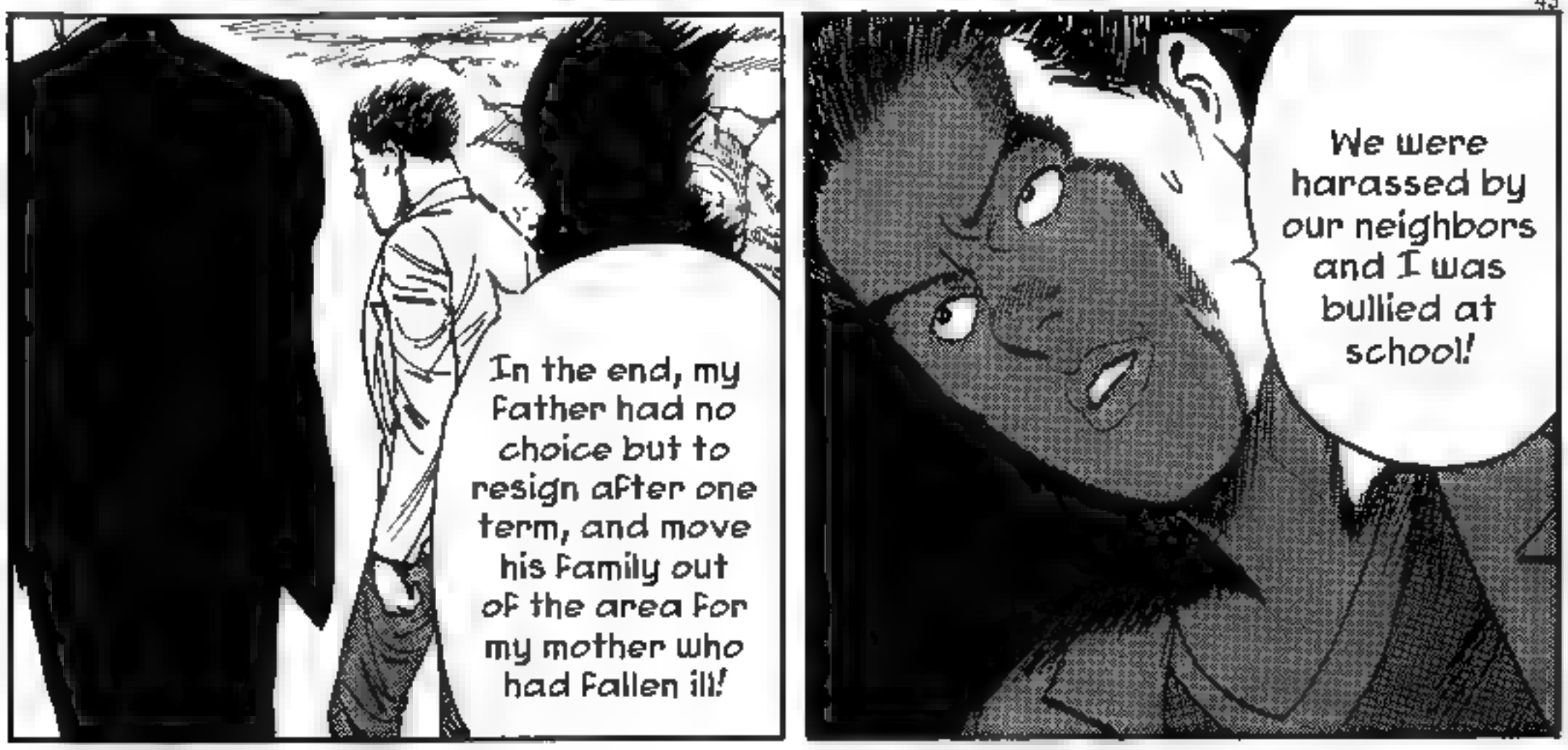
And I thanked you once.

There, now we're even.

Mr. Amino...

You said something about getting back at the locals?


He was elected when I was in middle school.
My Father was the mayor of this city.
.....
The conservative city councillors, the local industries trying to protect their interests, and even local newspapers all sabotaged my Father's career
That pressure extended to his family.
He was eager to start hammering out drastic policies For his agenda of public finance reforms. Even the central media came to interview him.
But... he had too many enemies.


In the end, my Father had no choice but to resign after one term, and move his family out of the area For my mother who had fallen ill!
We were harassed by our neighbors and I was bullied at school!

Professor Munakata, the locals are trying to use the Mishaguchi statue you discovered as a tourist attraction.

So I took the initiative to take that treasure right from under their noses! Serves them right!

I made my success on the Internet, and obtained the power of money!

I'M GOING TO TRAMPLE THEM UNDER MY FOOT! THAT'S MY REVENGE!

I REFUSE TO LET THE LOCALS MILK THAT STATUE!

I'M GOING TO UPROOT THEIR HERITAGE, AND MAKE A PROFIT OFF OF IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!


I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
SO I REFUSE TO DIE DOWN HERE ALL ALONE!


TO THE SURFACE ...!!


I SWEAR I'M GET-TING UP TO THE SUR-FACE!!

We've come a long way... It's night now. Let's rest here...





48



50



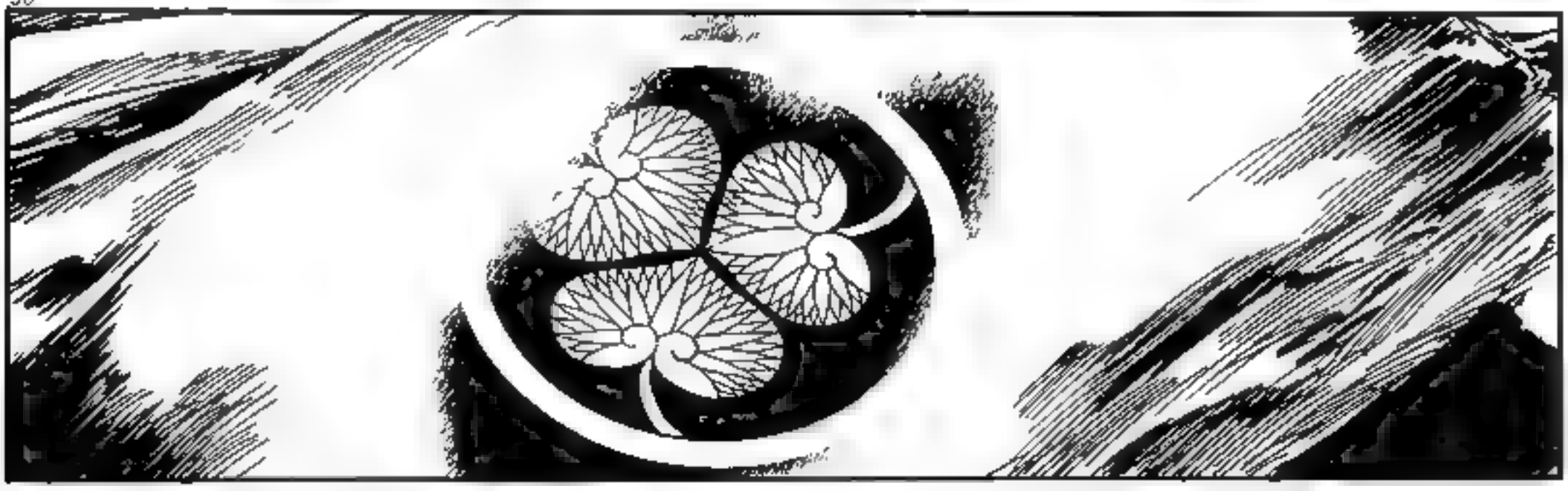






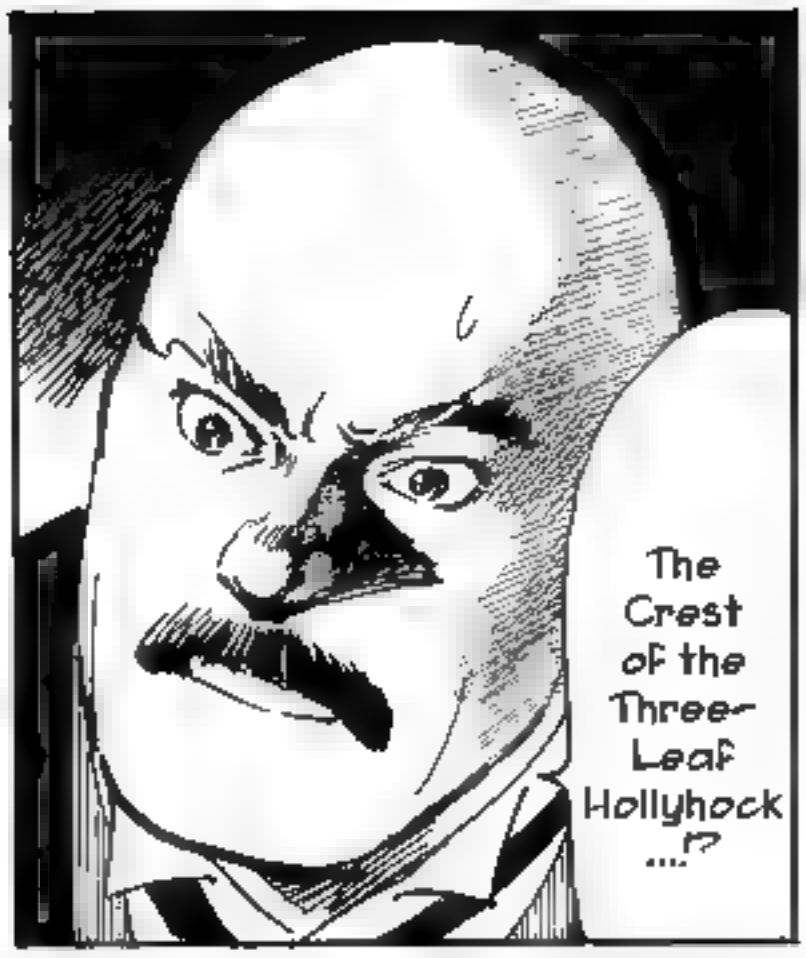


50



52


This looks like the remains of a trunk for a feudal lord's clothing and armor but what's the Tokugawa's crest doing here...?


The Crest of the Three-Leaf Hollyhock ...!?


Hmm...


They might've even killed each other as their sanity slipped away from them!


They got lost in this "Cave of Man" and never found an exit...


T...They all wandered in the dark, and ended up dead...

They lost all their humanity as they crawled through the pitch-black underground.

That might be what it means to become a serpent...

He went mad and thought he was a snake! That belief was easier for him...

The same must go for Koga Saburo.

HELP ME... HELP ME...!!

I'LL DO ANTHING, JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE!!

IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT, I'LL GIVE YOU BIL LIONS!

JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE!!

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF HERE!

Huff huff...

.....

HUFF... HUFF...

I THINK THAT THIS "CAVE OF MAN" WAS USED BY SPECIFIC PEOPLE AS A SECRET PASSAGE-WAY.

Huh ...?

THIS IS JUST MY IMAGINA-TION...

BUT THE KOGA NINJAS !!

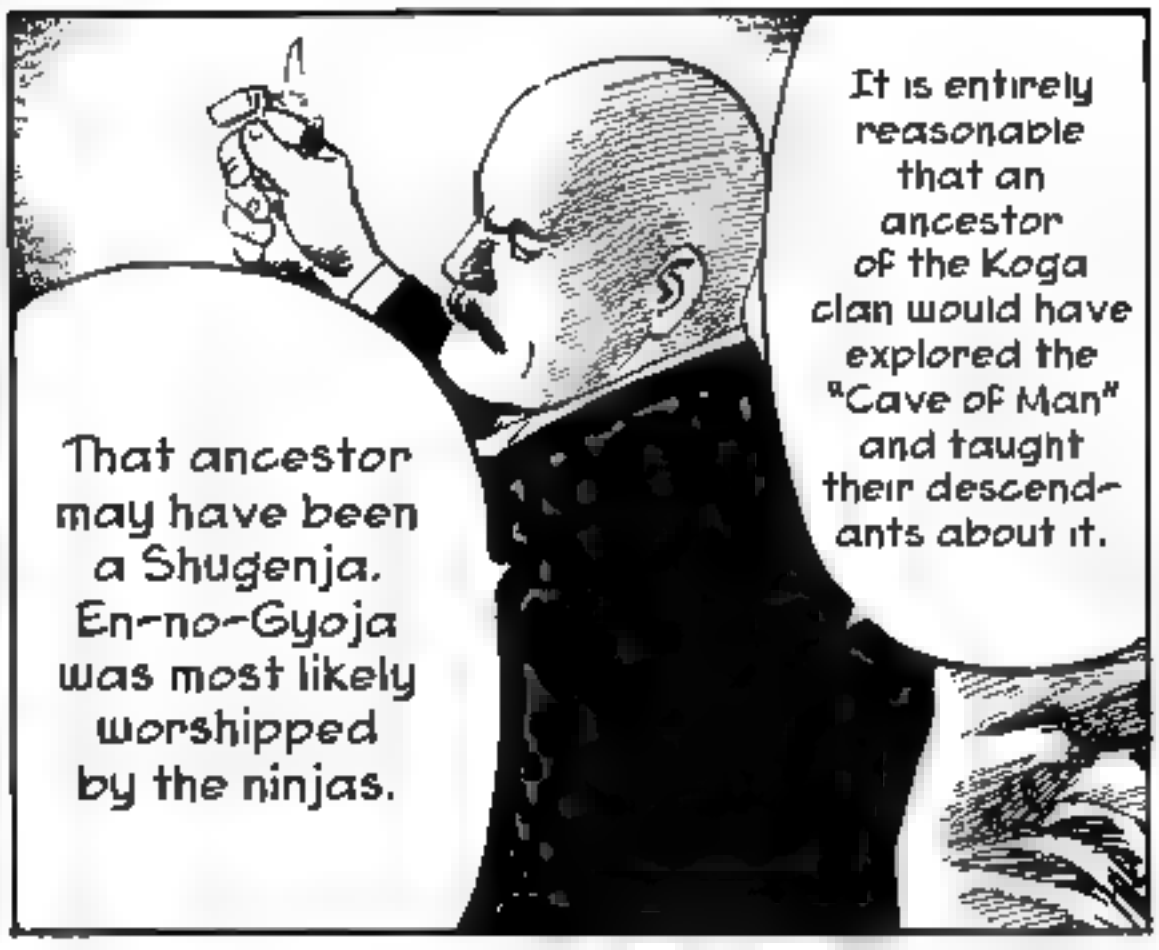
PARTICULARLY IN THE WARRING STATES, IT WAS AN UNDER-GROUND ROUTE THAT COULD BE USED FOR INFILTRATION INTO MINO, OWARI, OR EVEN KAI! AND WHO WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR ELUSIVE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES...

I've heard that the Koga Ninjas, and even the modern-day residents, claim descent from Koga Saburo.

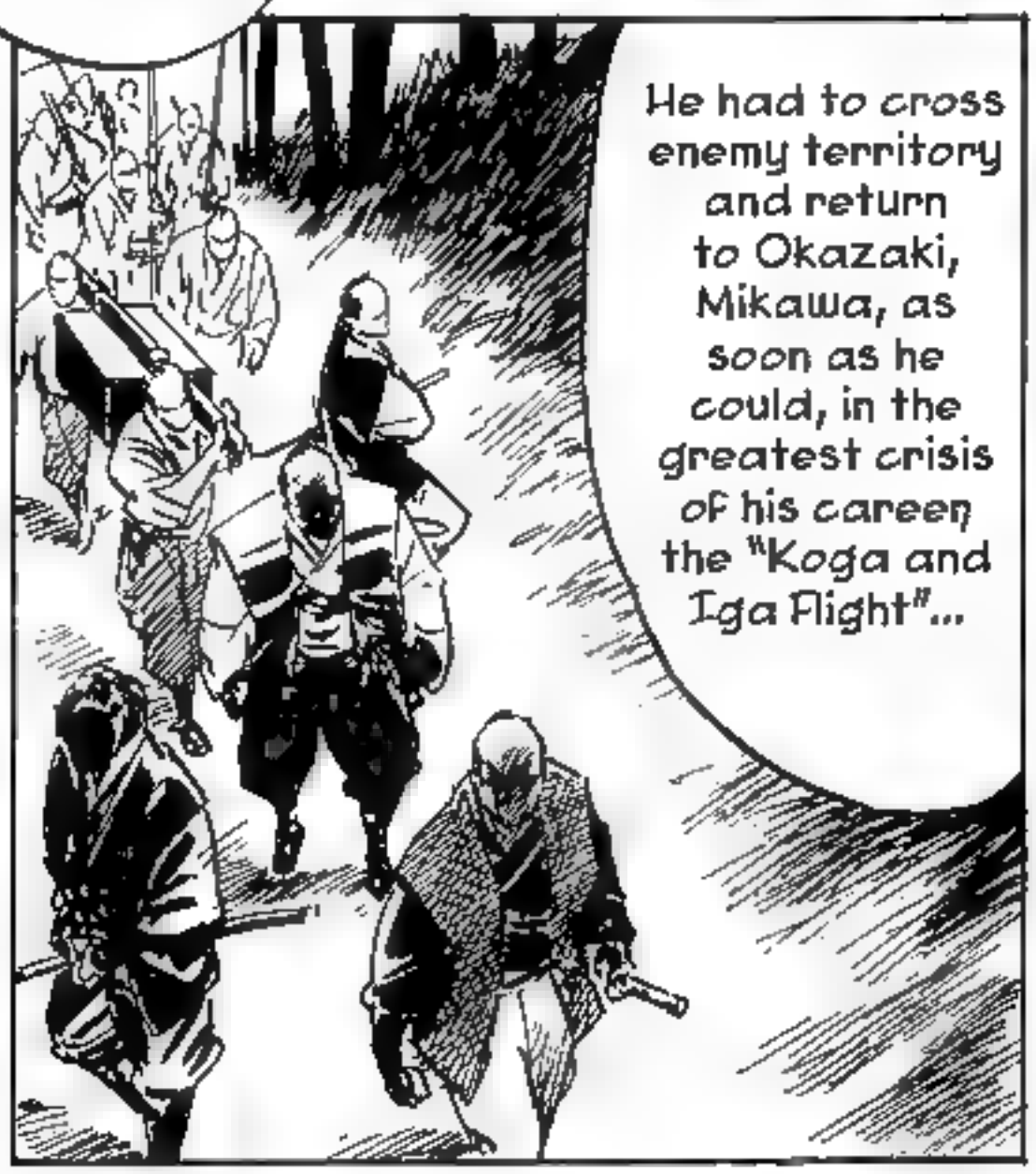
Koga of Omi, a ninja village on par with Iga, was the hometown of Koga Saburo!

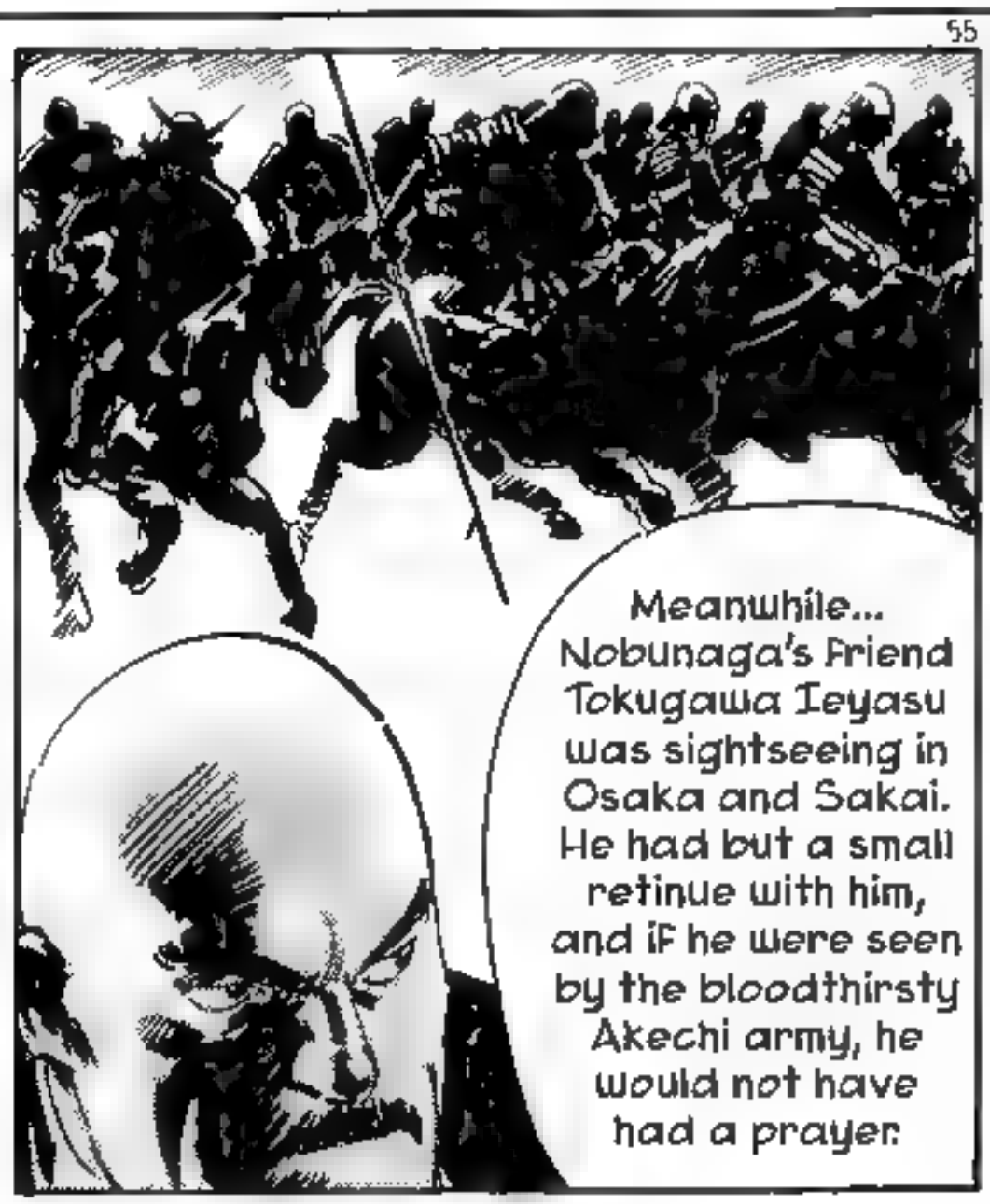
Koga... Ninjas!?




It is entirely reasonable that an ancestor of the Koga clan would have explored the "Cave of Man" and taught their descendants about it.
That ancestor may have been a Shugenja. En-no-Gyoja was most likely worshipped by the ninjas.


but he died by Akechi Mitsuhide's attack in Honno Temple on June 2nd, Tensho year 10.
Now, Oda Nobunaga was the conqueror that ended the era of Warring States...


He had to cross enemy territory and return to Okazaki, Mikawa, as soon as he could, in the greatest crisis of his career the "Koga and Iga Flight"...


Meanwhile... Nobunaga's friend Tokugawa Ieyasu was sightseeing in Osaka and Sakai. He had but a small retinue with him, and if he were seen by the bloodthirsty Akechi army, he would not have had a prayer.

Ogaki

Azuchi

Cave of Man?

Okazaki

The route he took from the Koga and Iga area is still uncertain...

Koga

Iga

Sakai

They say that he was led by his confidant Hattori Hanzo of the Iga Ninja, but it is likely he had assistance from the Koga Ninja, which were under Nobunaga's command.

...You don't mean that Ieyasu ...!?

And the entrance to the "Cave of Man" must have been near Koga!




A part of the Akechi army tracked them there...







I assume that Ieyasu was able to escape from the exit either in Ogaki of Mino, or Owari...


Which means that if we keep on going south-west, we'll be able to leave through the entrance they came in!


Y...You're sure?
We can really get out of here!?



59


.....


Just trust my deduc-tion!

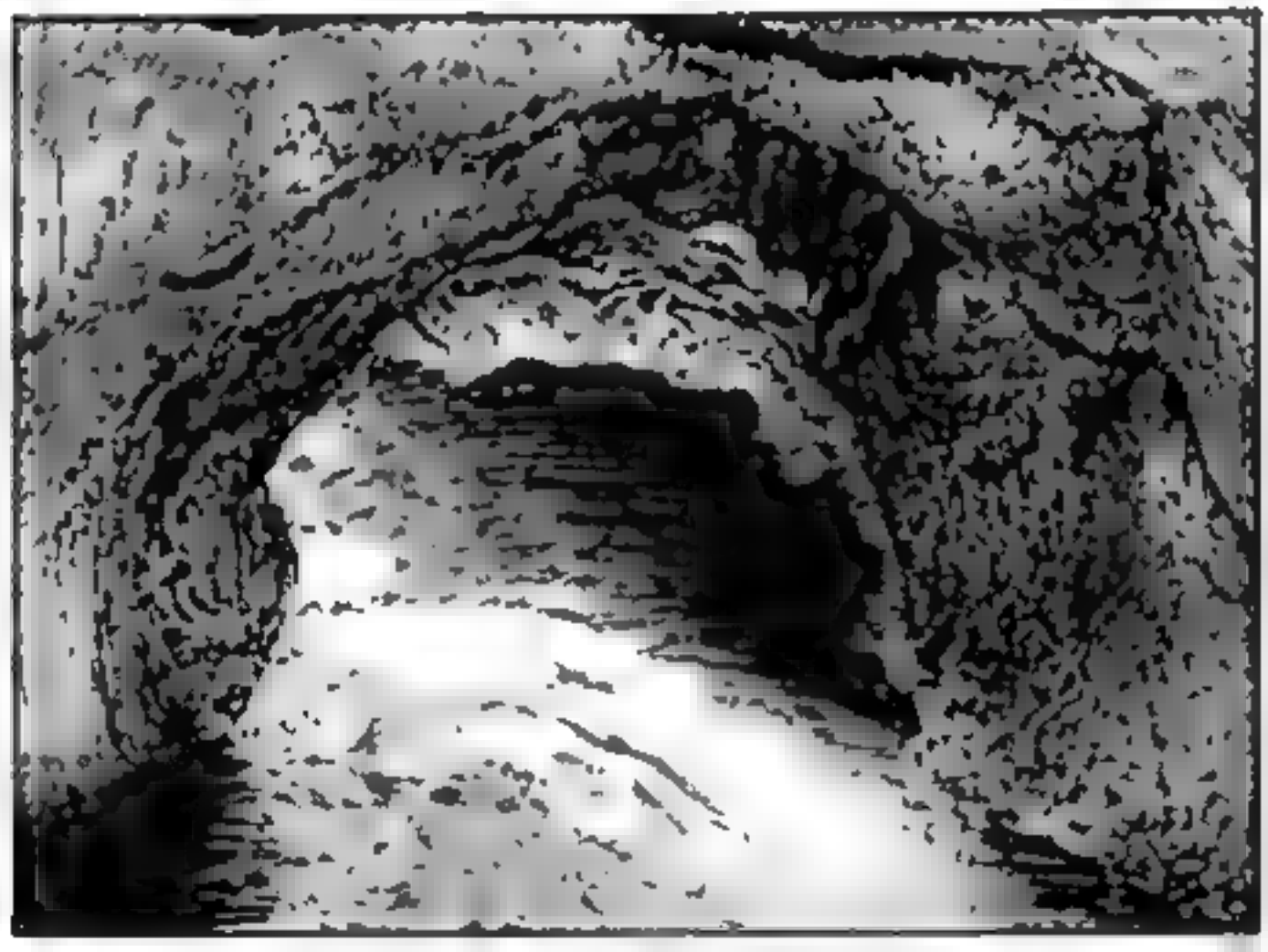
This lighter won't last much longer. I've even burned through the spare oil.

8:00 AM... We've been walking all night.

Once we're in the dark, it's all over.




The morning light...




W...W aaaa augh !?


.....

MOVE! I CAN ...

H...HEY! IS ANY-BODY THERE!?

HEY! HEY!

61

KCH... THE SPACE BETWEEN THE ROCKS IS TOO... DAMMIT!!

62

...That's not a snake! It's a natural rock that resembles a serpent... It could be serpentinite!

T...THIS ISN'T FAIR! WE FINALLY GOT TO THE EXIT, ONLY TO FIND THIS!

.....

.....

Huh ?

H...Hello! It's me! Hello...!?

64

She said to put you on the phone ...


Taki!


YOU'RE ALIVE! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, UNCLE!


Now listen! We're in a cave that I'm assuming is facing Koga, Shiga Prefecture, just to the south of Suzuka Pass.
We're trapped inside here! Send for help!


S...Shiga Prefecture!? But we've been looking in Nagano!


Well, it was, at least until I saw this rock...
A...Are we really near Koga?
I thought that was a fable you made up to calm Mr. Amino...




Fzzzzzz zzzzz... Click!

Serpent Stone... of Azuchi Castle...?

THIS IS THE "SERPENT STONE" OF AZUCHI CASTLE!

It took over ten thousand people to lift, and countless people were crushed in accidents along the way.

The "Chronicles of Nobunaga" say that when Oda Nobunaga built the grand Azuchi Castle on the banks of Lake Biwa, he laid a stone he called the Serpent Stone in the corner of his castle.

Azuchi is not that far from Koga.

It could be that the Serpent Stone was worshipped in the village of Koga until it was forcibly removed by Nobunaga

It would have been a precious treasure for the people of Koga, whose ancestor had transformed into a serpent...

But that giant megalith vanished ever since Azuchi Castle burned after Nobunaga's death, and it has yet to be found

Ieyasu may have even ordered them to seal the cave forever, fearing it would fall into the wrong hands...

They retrieved it, and hid it in the entrance of the "Cave of Man".

.....

MUSEUM OPEN

I'll leave this in the Cave of Man...

It's a good thing Mr Amino was with us...

If he hadn't been there, I may have become a snake myself...

I feel like I was only able to remain in control of myself because he lost it first.

I guess that's another thing we're leaving in the Cave of Man...






I SEE SMOKE.... JUST EAST OF KOGA CITY!



.....

MR. AMINO! YOU'RE SAFE...

UNCLE !!

THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 8

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING


CHAPTER 9:
THE ROAD BY
WHICH THE
DEMONS
CAME

Shimane Prefecture
Near Oda City

Yes, it seems so. On top of that, they found the ruins of an ancient "tatara" ironworks here.

Demon Village... Did it have any demonic legends?

There used to be a village called "Demon Village" in this area.

Strangely enough, the places with legends of demons seem to have produced plenty of iron or minerals.

Some of the legends say that the demons would transform into swordsmiths and forge many swords in one night...

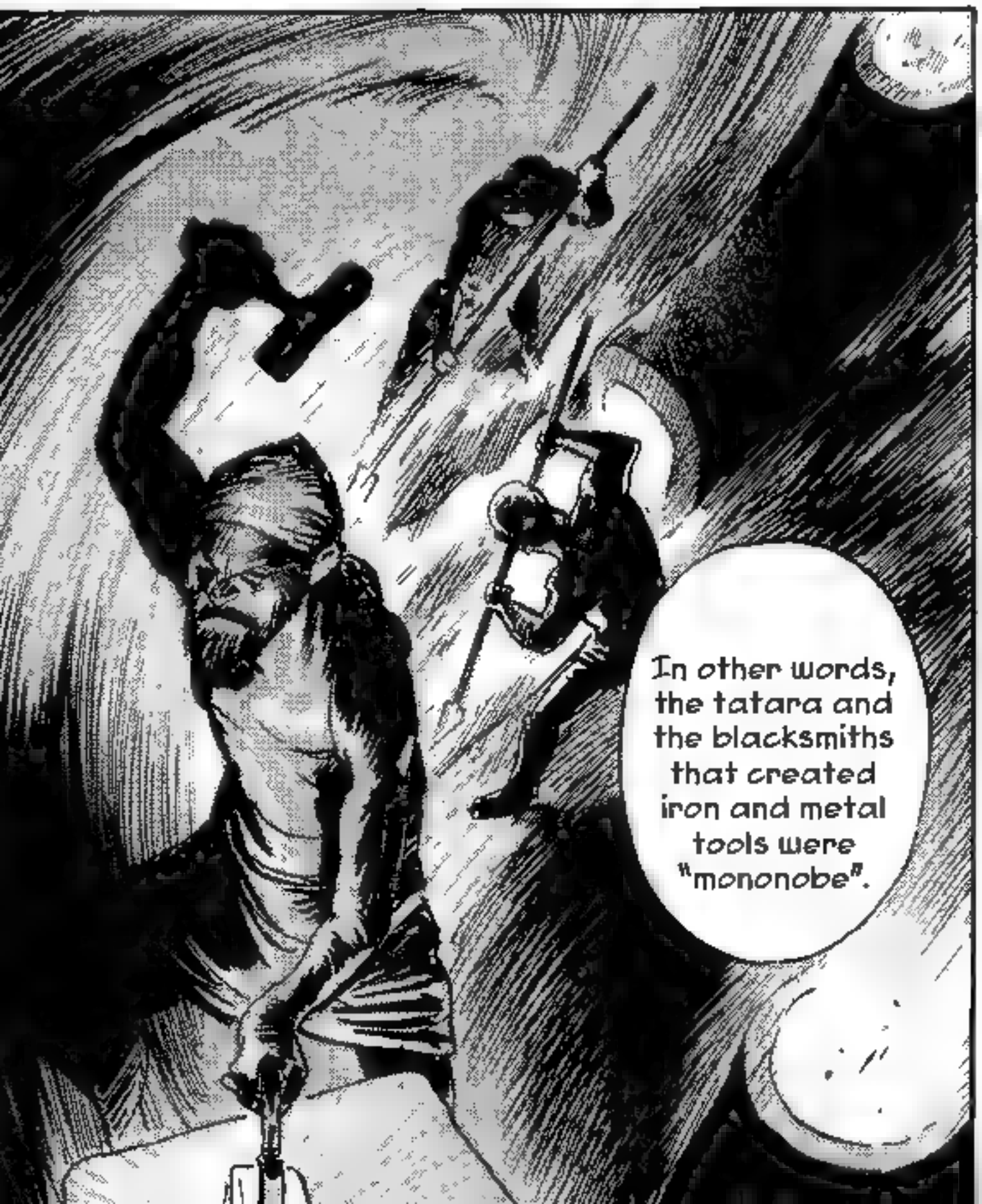
There's also a story of a demon whom no one would give shelter but a blacksmith, to whom the favor is returned.

Kawai District,
Oda City
Mononobe Shrine


So Mononobe Shrine is just near "Demon Village"...


This is the shrine of the Mononobe, an ancient influential clan.


The Mononobe Clan had several shrines, what with their forces spread across the nation, but this is the most famous, being the most prominent shrine in the Province of Iwami.


In other words, the tatara and the blacksmiths that created iron and metal tools were "mononobe".


The Mononobe Clan over-saw the "mononobe", which were all jobs that dealt with mono.
And by "mono", they meant tools and weapons.

And with it is Demon Village, and the demon legends...

There must've been plenty of *mononobe* living here.

Come to think of it, Shimane of Izumo was one of the leading iron sand producing areas of the nation.

Why you little...! Is this your thesis topic you wanted to show me!? Sounds like a lot of fun, Wakao...

I'm going to research "iron", too!

I plan on researching the topics of "iron" and "demons" from now on...

What about you, Munakata?

That's what I want to know.

Where did the civilization that found iron and forged it into weapons and tools come from,

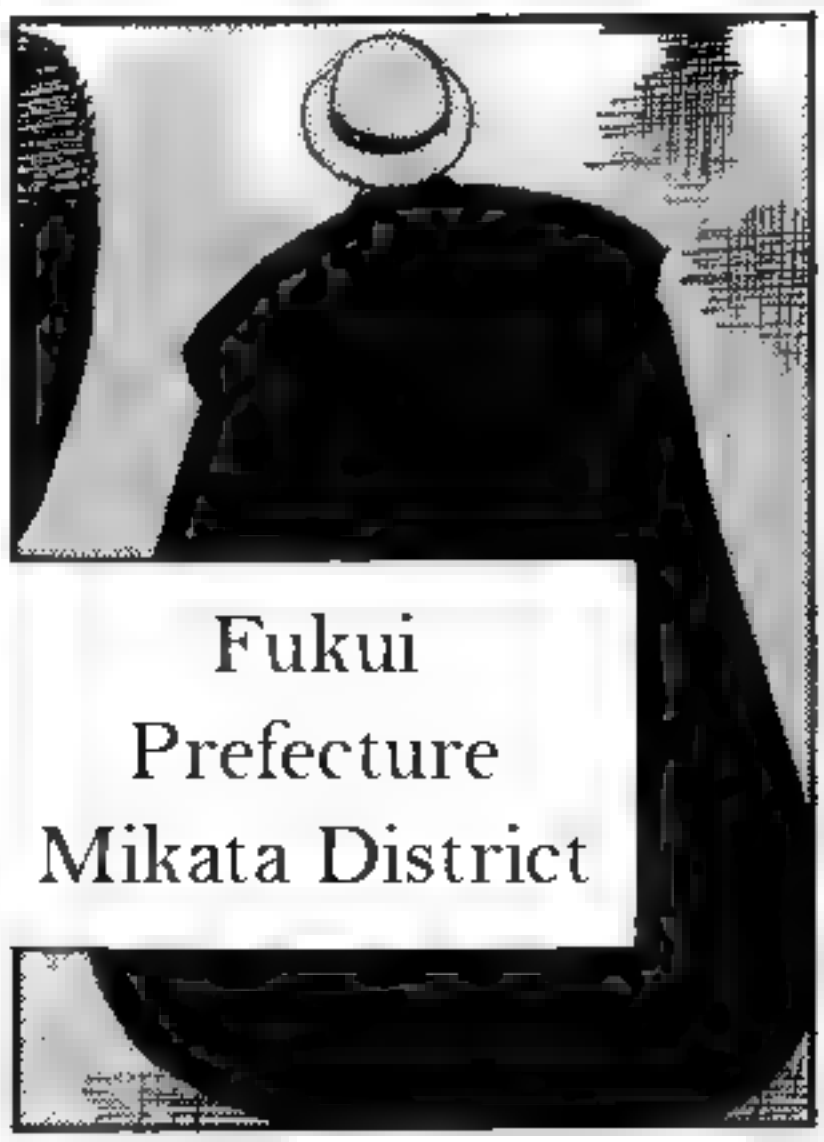
and what kinds of people passed that civiliza-tion?

Once we've graduated, let's meet up now and then to report our research!

Alright! Then we're both researching the history of iron, Munakata!


30 years later
Present day




Fukui
Prefecture
Mikata District

WAHHAH HAHAHHA...

Even though we've never met up at all, I've read your books now and then. Seems to me like you're as much of a free thinker as ever

Well, no wonder we've both changed so much. Hahaha...

Has it really been thirty years since then!?

Haha! Well, unlike you, there are some times I have to write to survive...

You can sure put out a lot of books yourself as a historical nonfiction writer, Wakao! I can barely even keep up with them!

I had a wife and daughter myself, but I lost them in a traffic accident... Now my niece from Kyushu's come up to live with me.

...Oh, me? I had a divorce ten years ago, and have been living as a bachelor ever since.

Sorry about calling you up out of the blue and asking you to come out here, Munakata.

Why don't we go for a walk for old time's sake?

.....

I see... I guess you can gain a lot and lose a lot over thirty years. It feels like we're both back to our carefree lives.

10

Your research topic's still on "iron". You're just as tenacious as I am!

Are you still chasing the demons and iron, Wakao?

They say it used to be called Tsunuga, but the pronunciation became corrupted.

You've probably passed through Tsuruga City on your way here...

Fukui Prefecture

Tsuruga

Mikata District

He declared himself to be Tsunuga-Arashito of the Kingdom of Gaya, and named the place Tsunuga...

The Nihon Shoki tells of "a man with horns growing from his forehead" that landed at Kehinoura in a boat.

Tsuruga Station

Statue of Tsunuga-Arashito

Tsuruga City
Tsunuga Shrine

...And nearby Tsuruga, deep in Mikata District, is our destination of Mononobe Village

Horns from his forehead... Just like a demon.

"Monon-obe" is written as "demon caste"!?

Mononobe Village

Mononobe Shrine

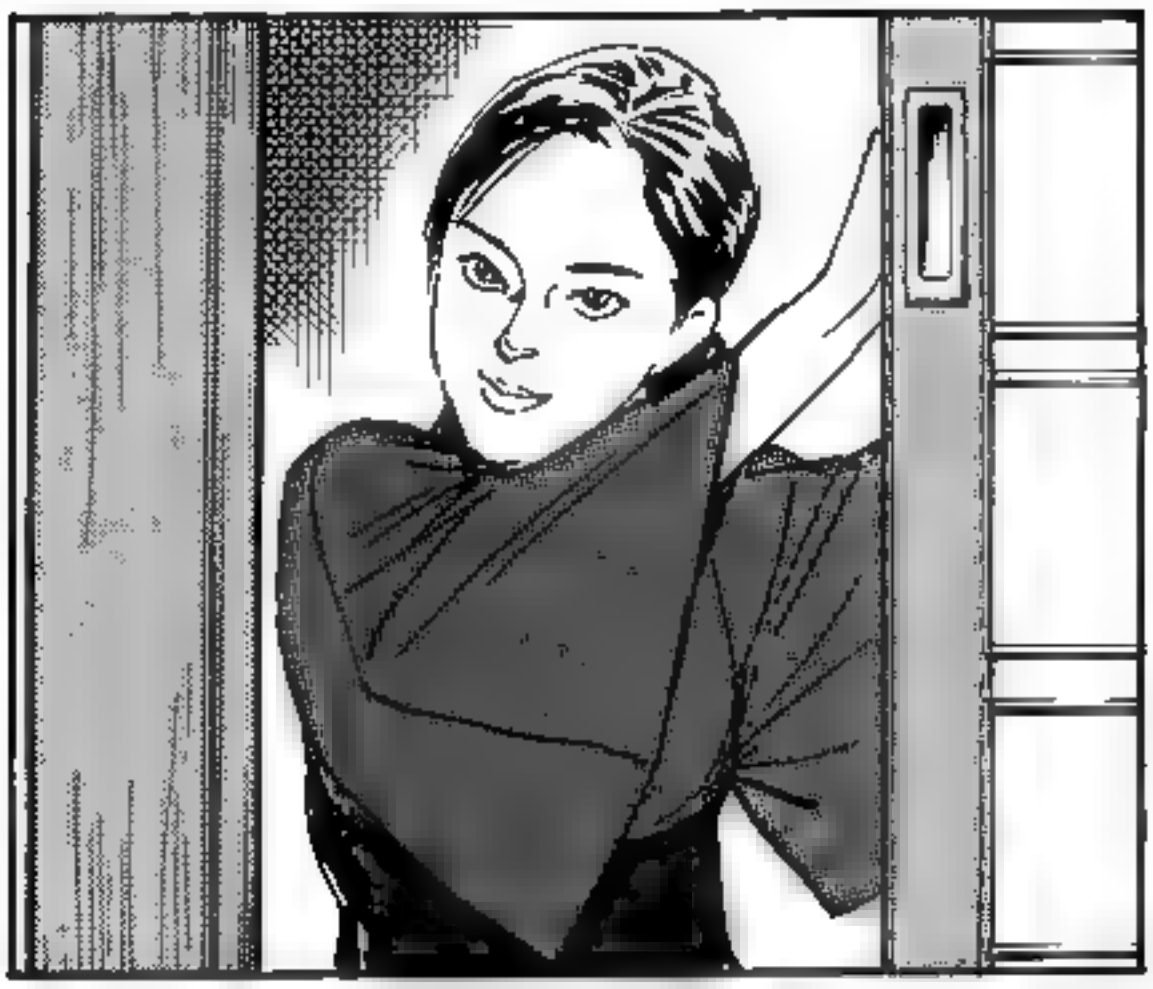
There's also a Mononobe Shrine there, where they've discovered the ruins of an ancient ironworks. Do you remember the Mononobe Shrine in Shimane?

12

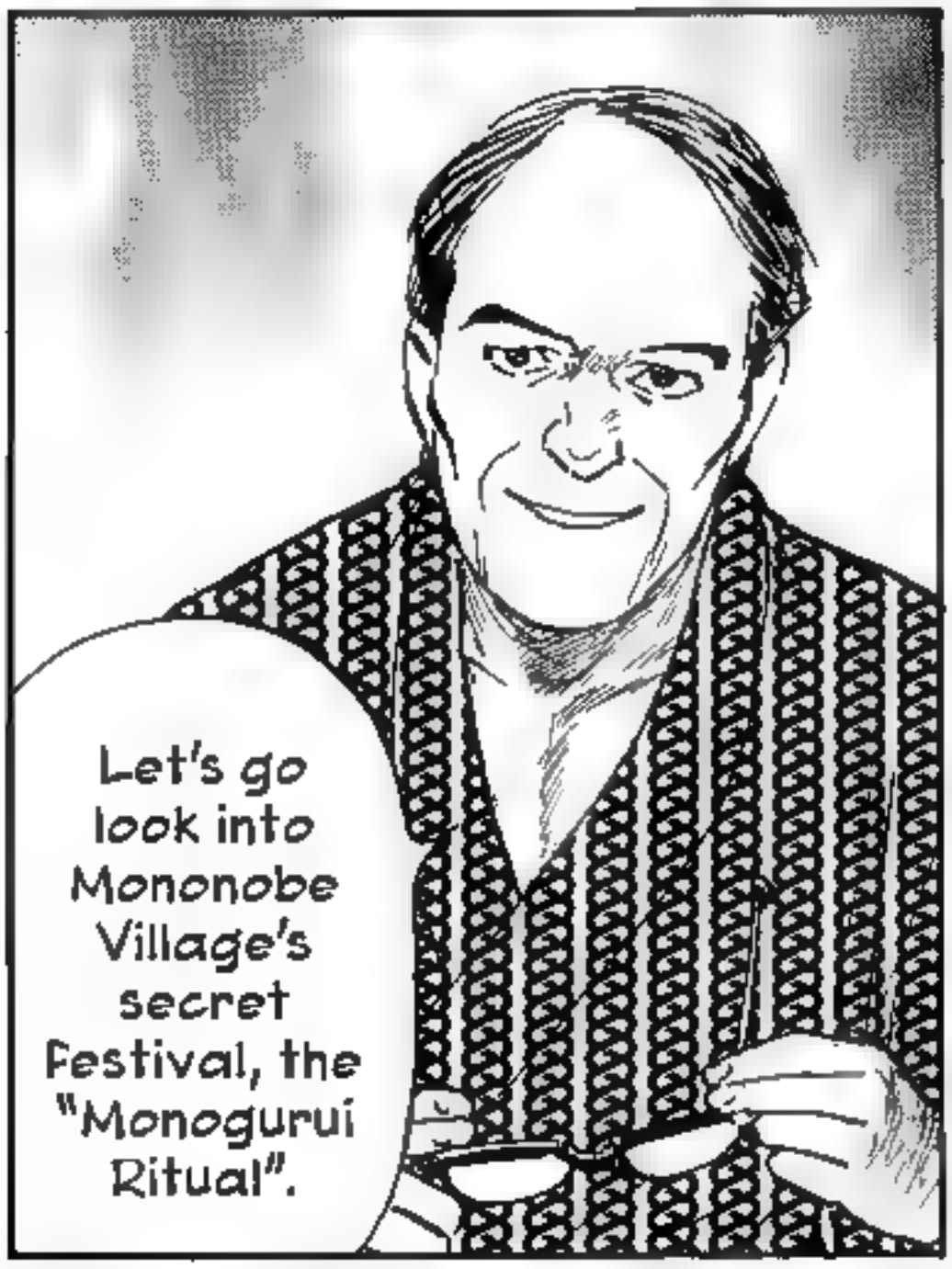
Hmm...

Iron... Demon legends... Mononobe Shrine... This combination exists in Sado and Gifu, as well.

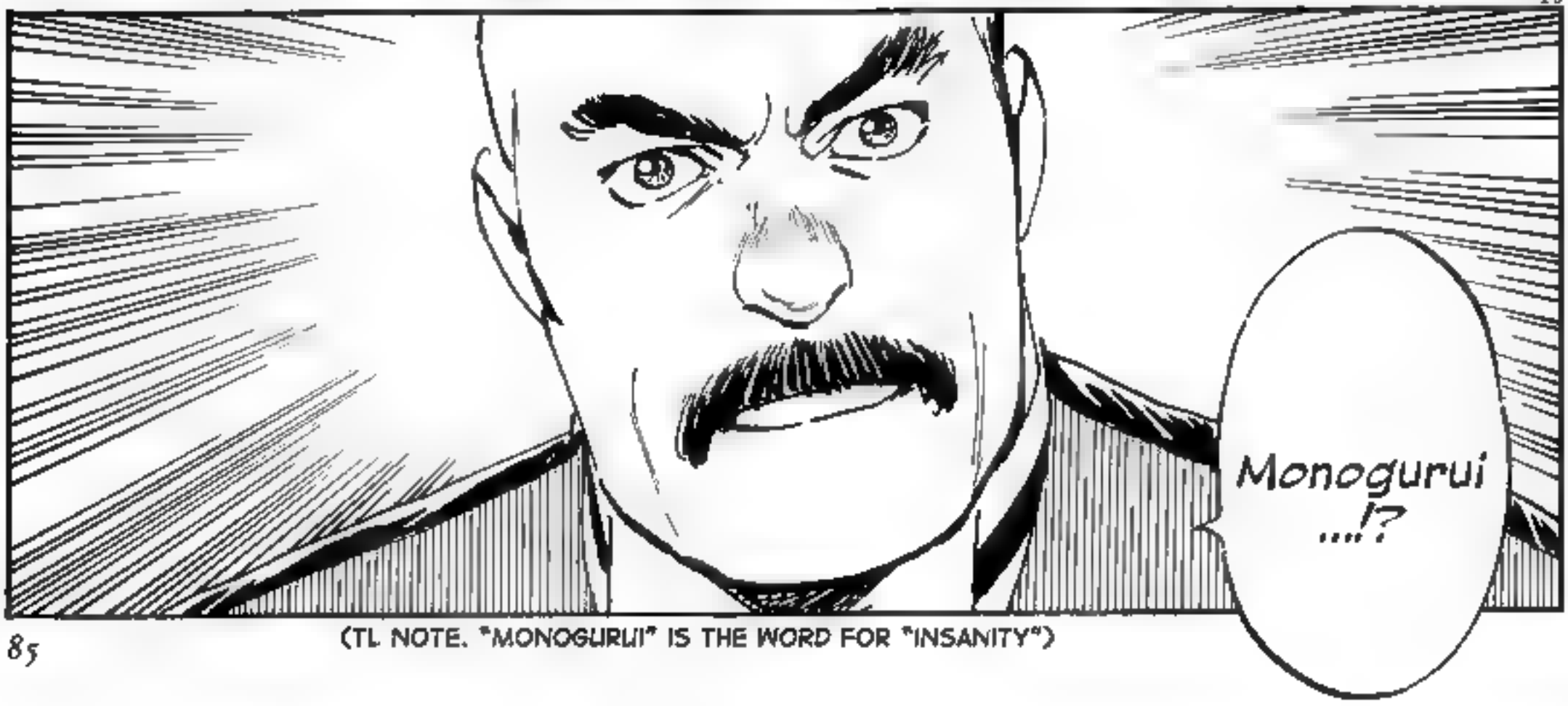
They may have been more widespread long ago.











(TL NOTE. "MONOGURUI" IS THE WORD FOR "INSANITY")

The Mononobe Clan was a mighty family that competed with the Soga Clan for supremacy in the reign of Prince Shotoku.

When Buddhism spread to Japan, Mononobe-no-Moriya did battle with Soga-no-Umako to defend their traditional beliefs, and was destroyed...

Due to their deep ties with weapons, they are imagined as mononofu, or a militant group...

Their main branch died out then, but the Mononobe Clan lived on as the Isonokami Clan of Isonokami Shrine, famous for the seven-branched sword.

In ancient times, souls and spirits were *mono* as well.

The *mono* of "mononoke".

But the "*mono*" of the Mononobe were more than just weapons...

So demons were *mono*, too.

That's right. Incidentally, both characters in the word "soul" contain the character for "demon".

Excuse me...

鬼部村

Mononobe Village

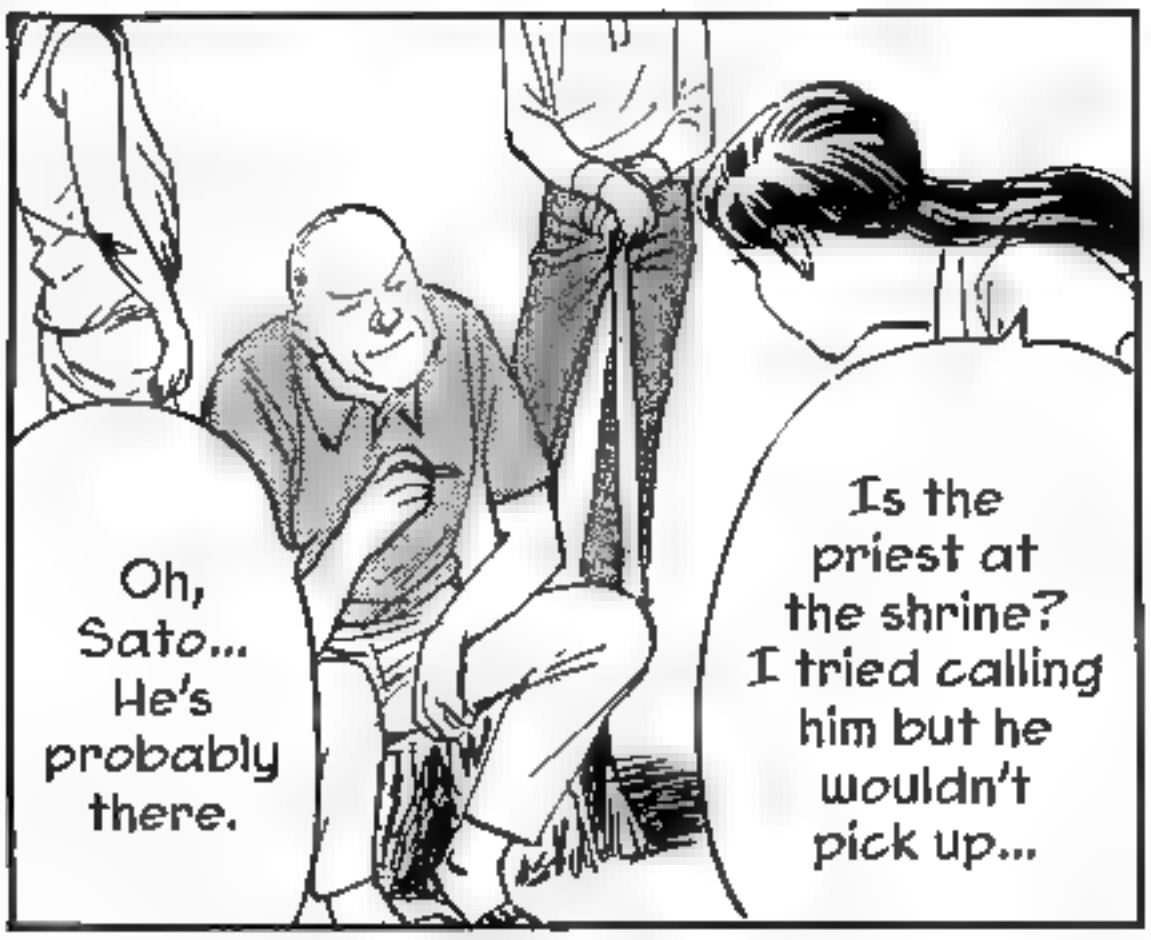
They used to have a "*Monogurui* Ritual", but it's never been held once in my lifetime...

You seem to be talking about the village as if it's a terrible place, but as I've said over and over it's just an ordinary village...

But even if it was, you wouldn't have seen it due to its forbidding of women...

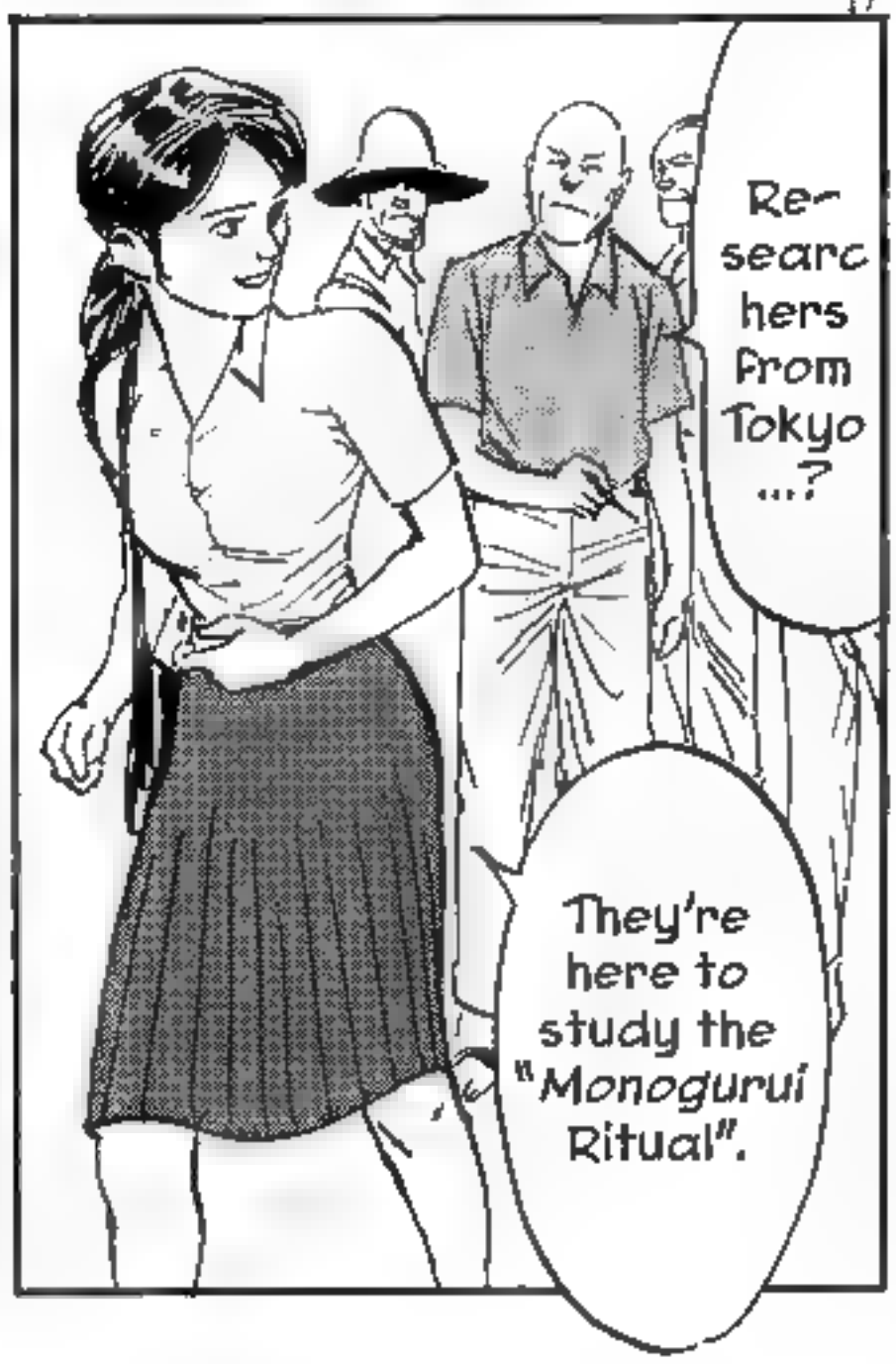
I'm sorry to have offended you, Miss Sato. I know it hasn't been held in years.

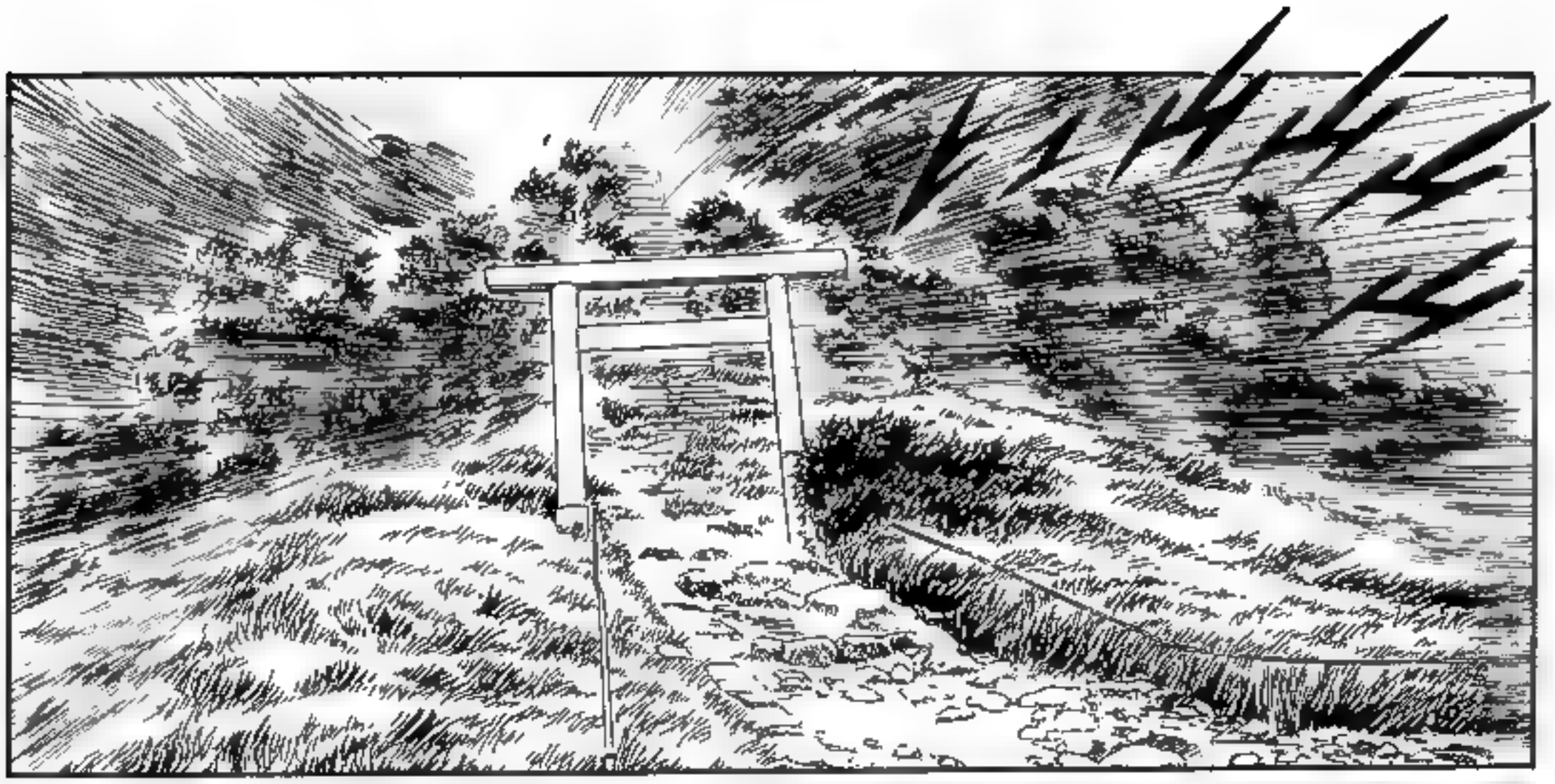



Oh, Sato... He's probably there.
Is the priest at the shrine? I tried calling him but he wouldn't pick up...


Mister Kuki...

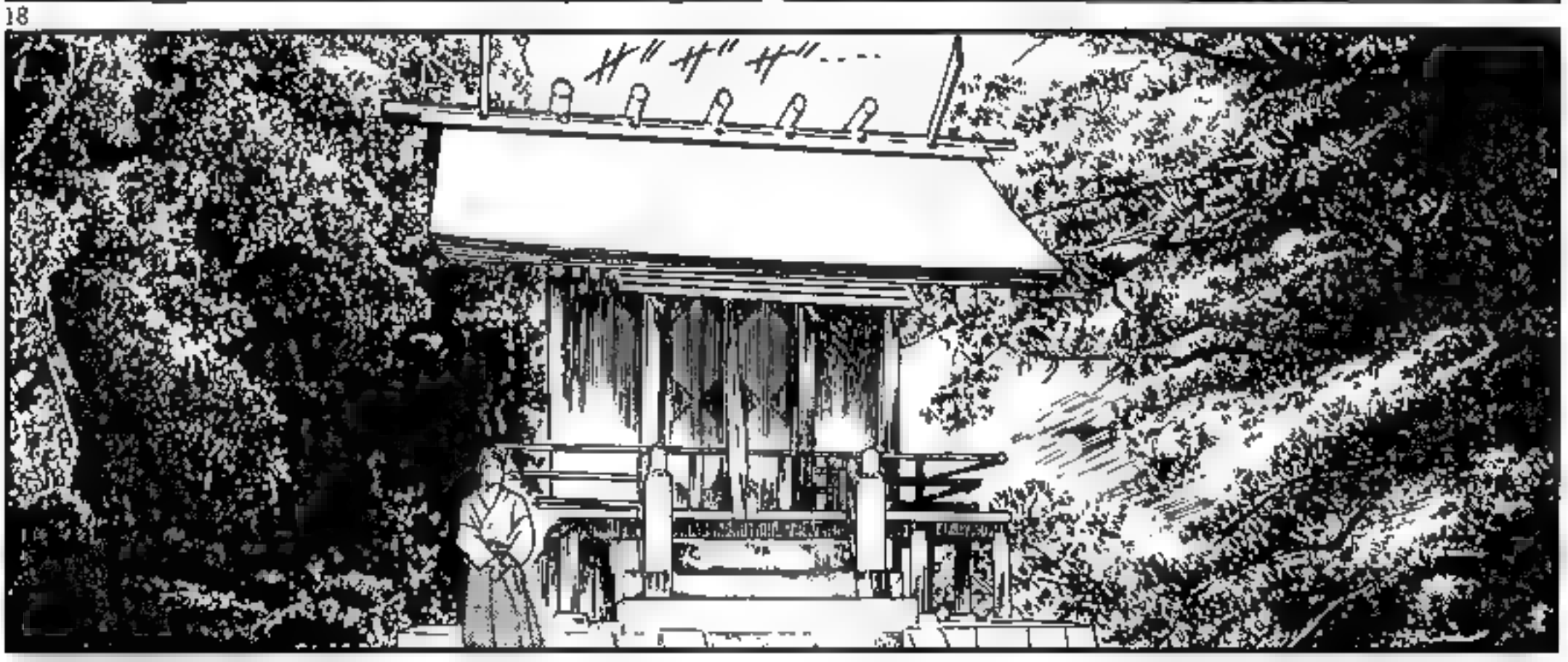



Re-searchers from Tokyo ...?
They're here to study the "Monogurui Ritual".


WHEE


We're deep in the valley, so it's always windy here.
.....


...! This is some horrid wind!


H" H" H"...

You seem well, Sato.

I'm Wakao, and this is Professor Munakata.

I'm Umashima, priest of Mononobe Shrine.

Are those... iron bells!?

Yeah. Most shrines have globular bells, but these have been here for generations.

They still remain in places like Suwa Grand Shrine, but they're extremely rare. I've never seen them used like this before.

and the art's about to die out without an heir.

As a matter of fact, they've been producing iron ritual equipment like bells and shrine mirrors here in the village, but depopulation has picked up...

20

Mean-ing...

That's right, but also... They say that the Mononobe Clan prospered in Yamato and Izumo as early as the Yayoi period.

They say that iron bells are the successors to Yayoi bronze bells, but there's a theory saying that they're even older.

that the Mononobe Clan not only forged bronze bells and halberds, but also conducted the rituals.

The Mononobe Clan ruled over the metal *mono* and the spiritual *mono*...

This is where the *Monogurui* Ritual was held.

Tatara Village of Izumo... It was a village that refined iron using the natural power of wind.

I've been to a village as windy as this before...

The God-dess will be dis-pleased...

WOMEN MUST NOT ENTER THE PILLARS!

Is that what the *Monogurui* Ritual consisted of?

So they built an iron kiln in this hollow, and used the gale to smelt the iron...

The deity of blacksmiths and *tatara* is a goddess called Kana-yamahime, and they say she detests it when women approach her

23

Human corpses.

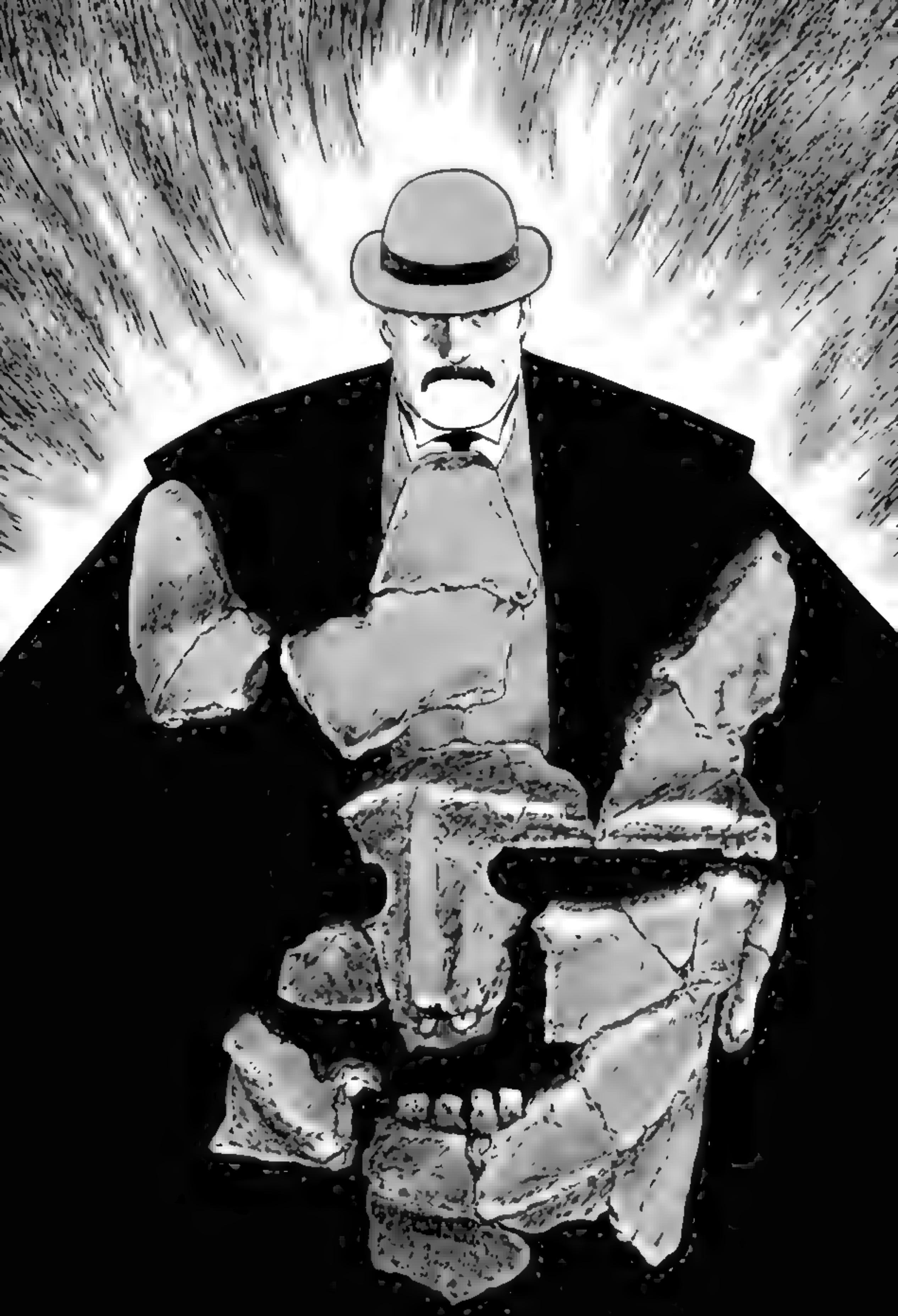
So the *tatara* of old believed they could smelt better iron by placing corpses by the kiln.

That's not all, Muna-kata.

This goddess detested women, but there was one thing she was fond of...

They say the *Monogurui* Ritual was a secret rite that made use of a number of corpses...!

CORPSES ...!?



Mononobe Village,
Mikata District, Fukui Prefecture

I heard a rumor about this village's "*Monogurui* Ritual" from an old ex-*tatara* in Shimane...

So I confronted the priest about it, half in doubt...

HAHAHAHA! YOU THINK THE "MONOGU-RUI RITUAL" INVOLVED SMELTING IRON WITH CORPSES NEARBY?

.....

IF IT DID HAPPEN, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT! HAHAHA...

THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE IN THE DISTANT PAST, BUT ANYTHING THAT DREAD-FUL WOULD NEVER BE PERMITTED TODAY!

Sato, is your parents' home around here?

It may sound bizarre, but I've heard the saying that *good* iron could be smelted by placing corpses next to the Foundry. It may have been actually practiced in the past...

Don't mention it...

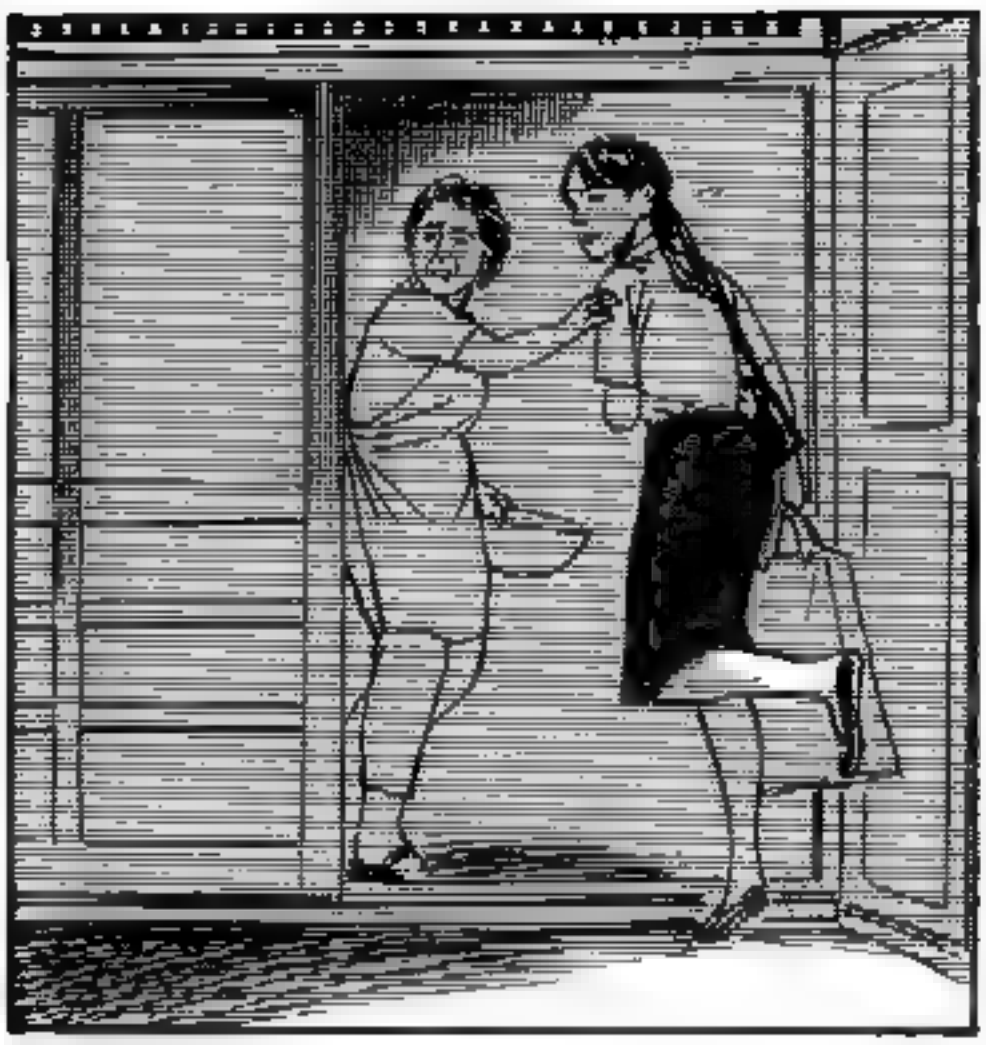
Thanks For showing us around ...

Hmmm... You wanna come play with us? It'll be Fun!

Just turn that corner and...

Hey, missy! We'd like to get to the riverbed, so which way do we go?

Tell us!



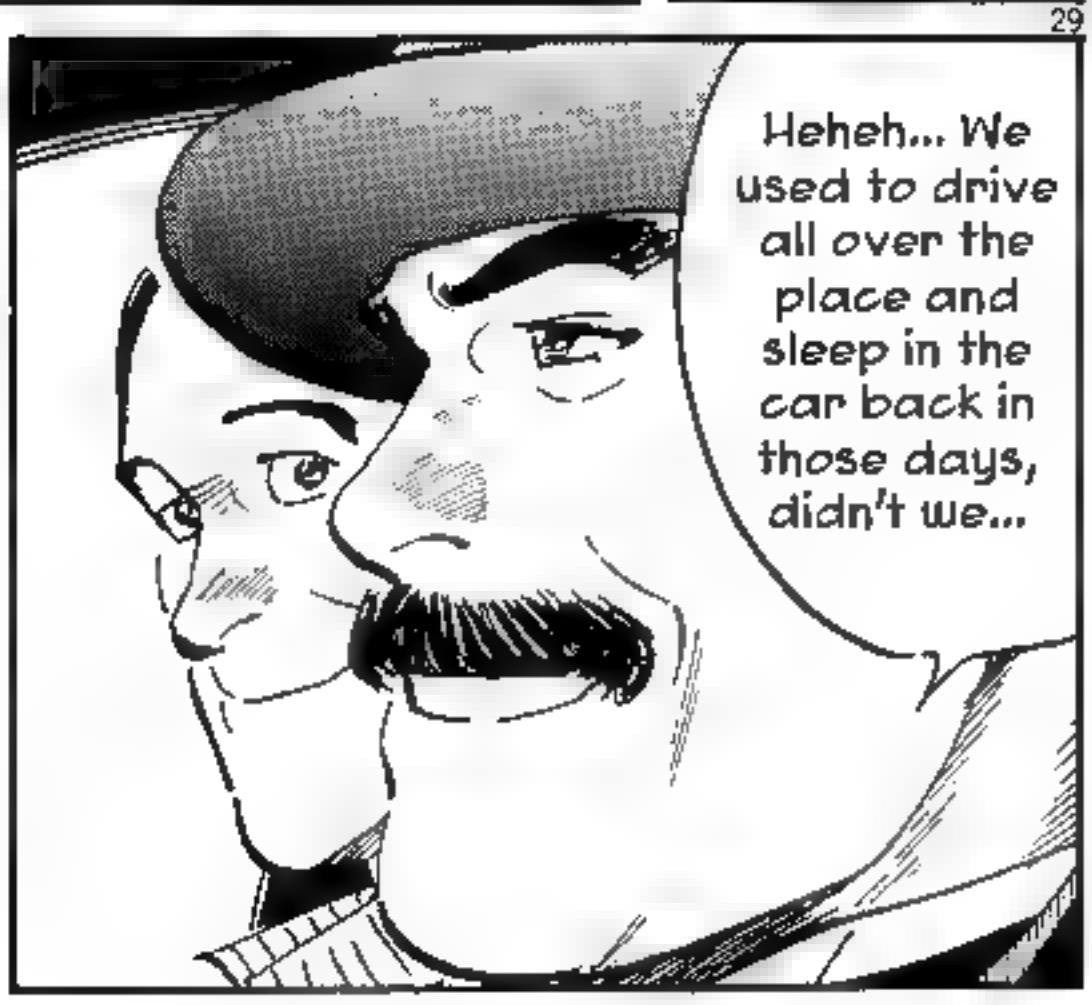

Gaha-haha!
Nah, dumbass! Isn't she a little old?
Let's get going!


Yeah. This village doesn't have an inn, so I was hoping that we could stay at her parents' place...
Well, it's alright. We've got plenty of food.

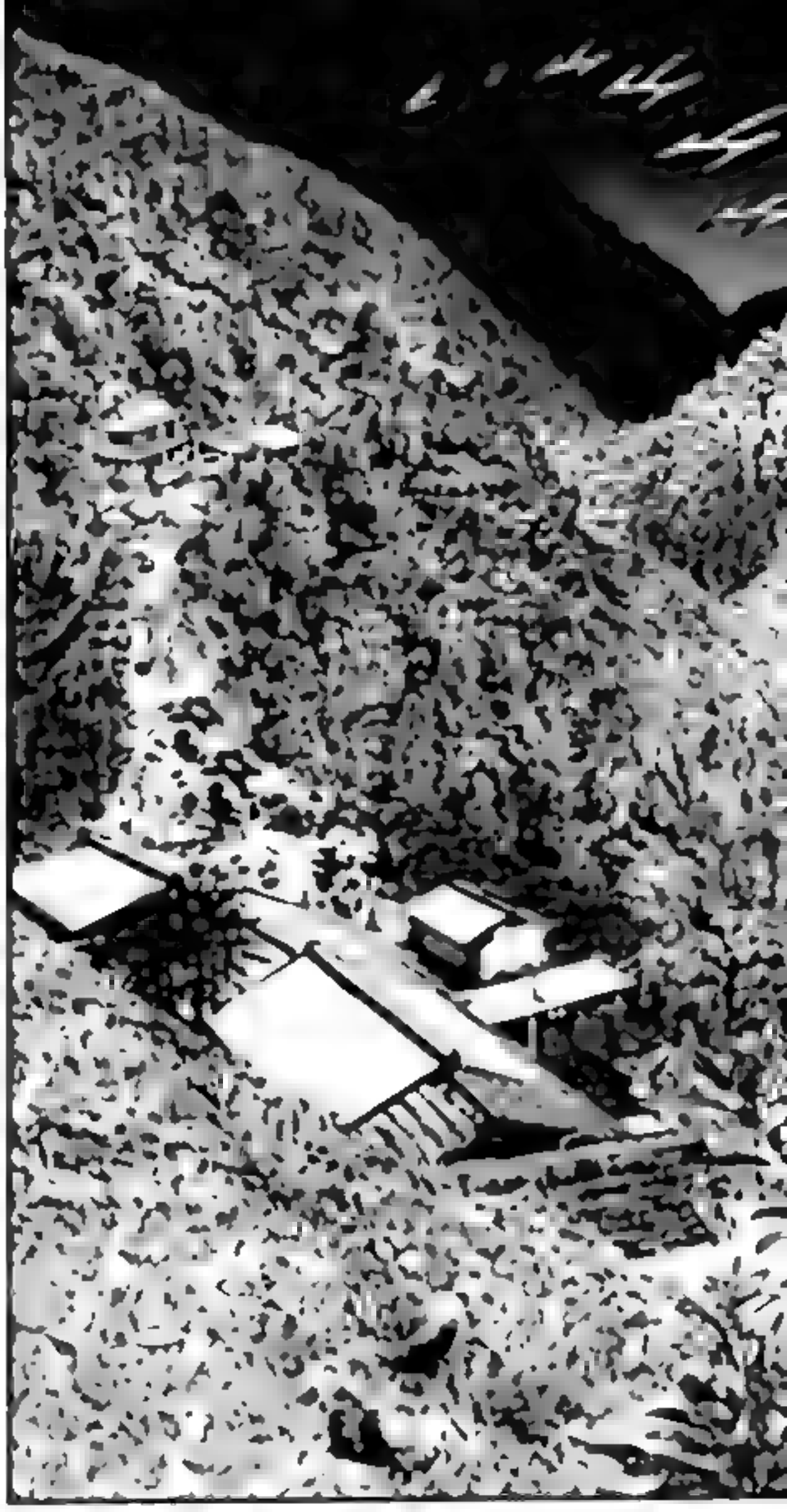

It looks like we've upset Miss Sato. She may have thought we're defaming the village with this talk of secret rites and corpses...

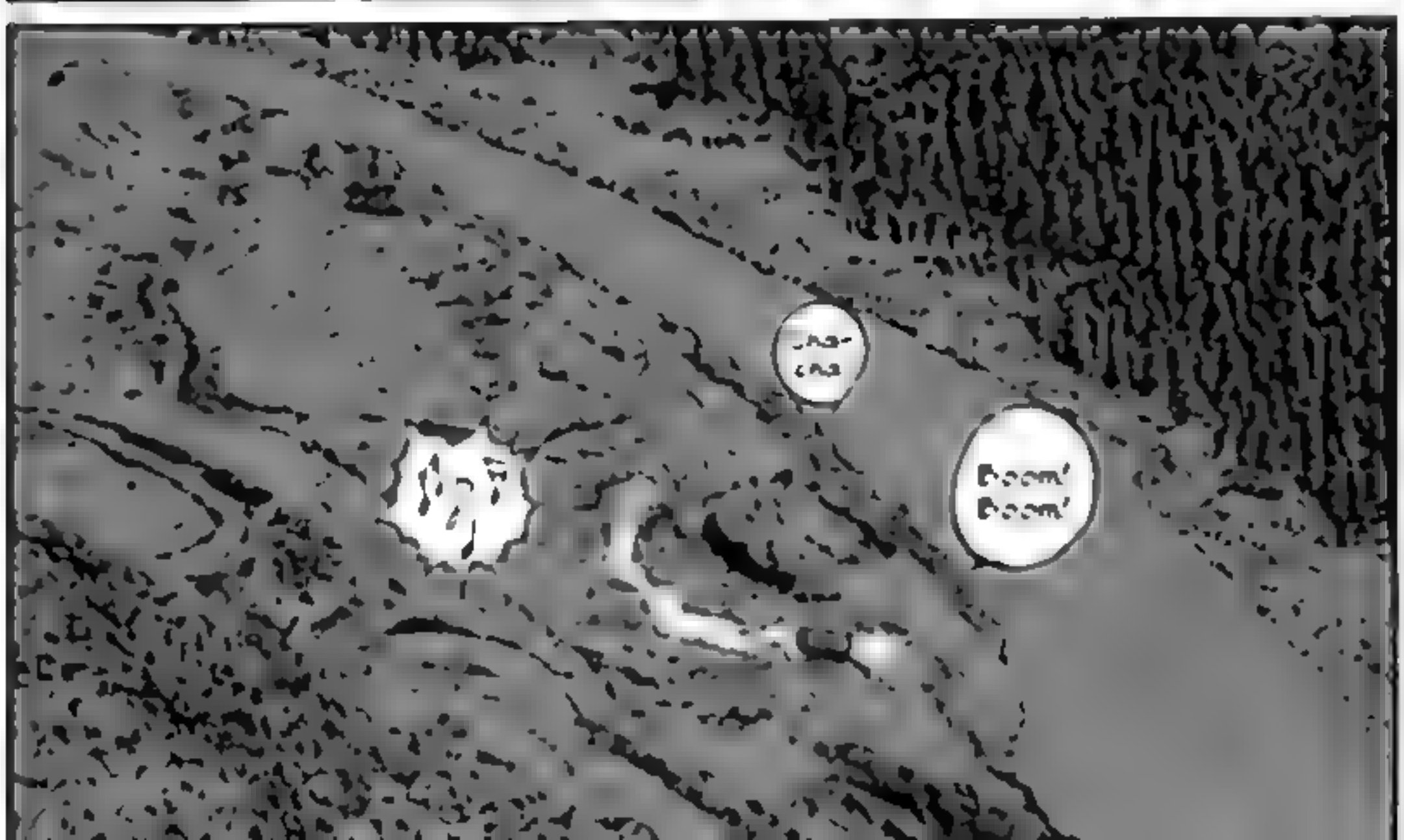



I'd like to stick around and look into it a little more tomorrow. Care to accompany me, Munakata?


Heheh... We used to drive all over the place and sleep in the car back in those days, didn't we...

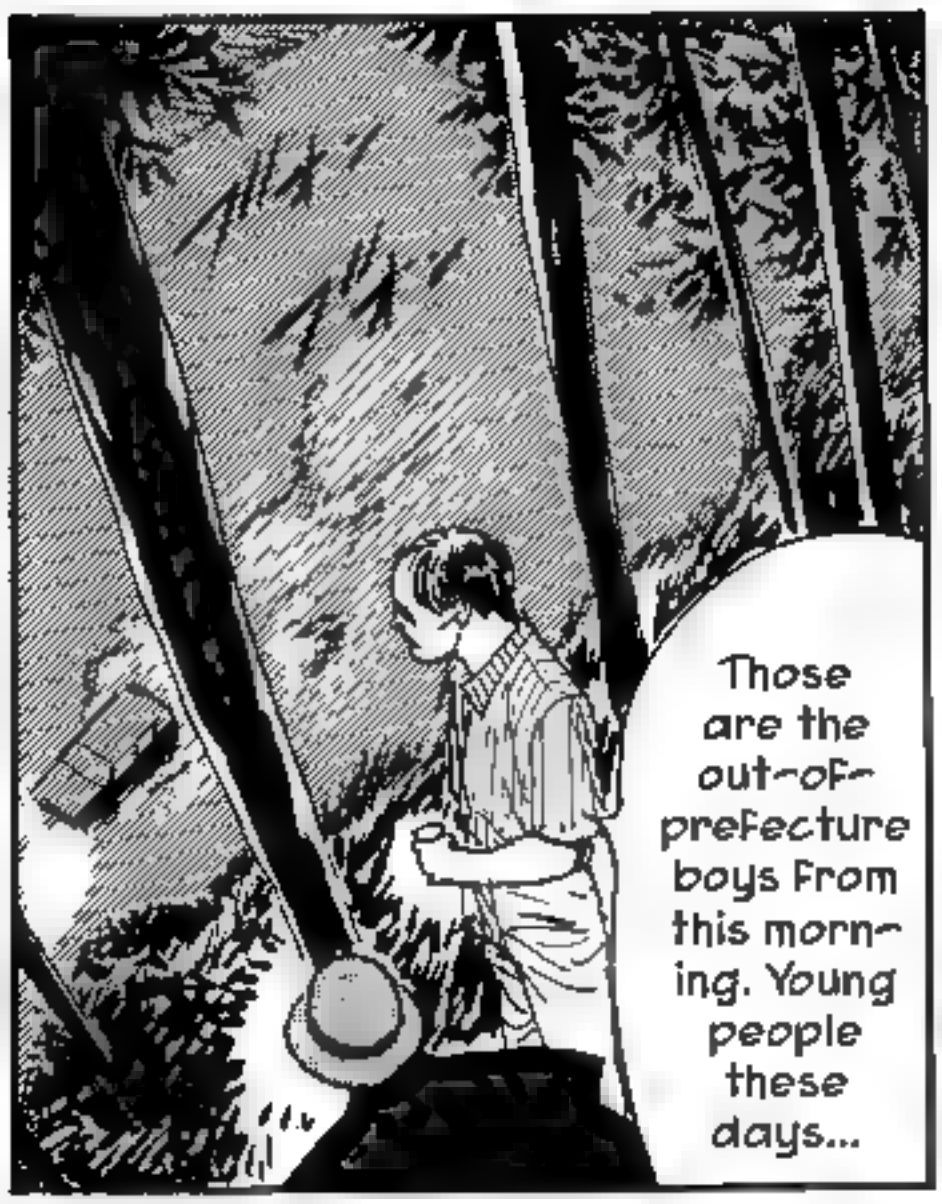




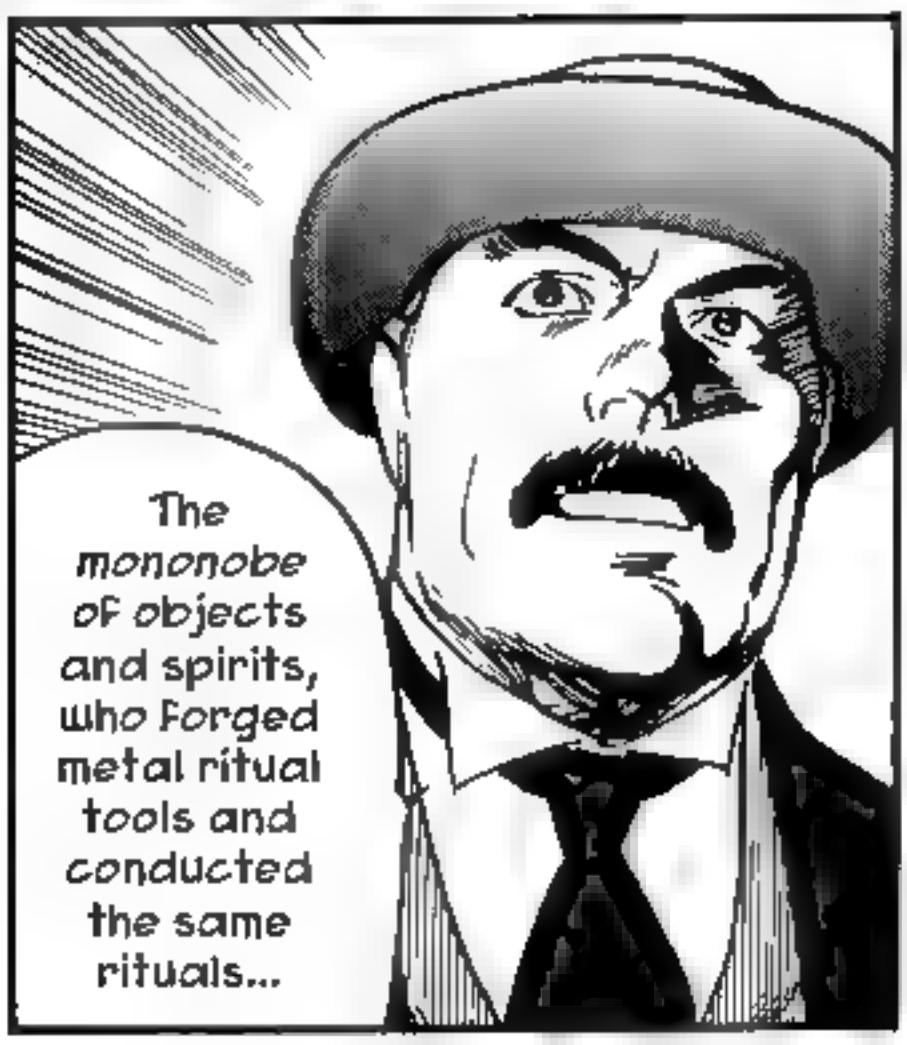

Boom!
Boom!

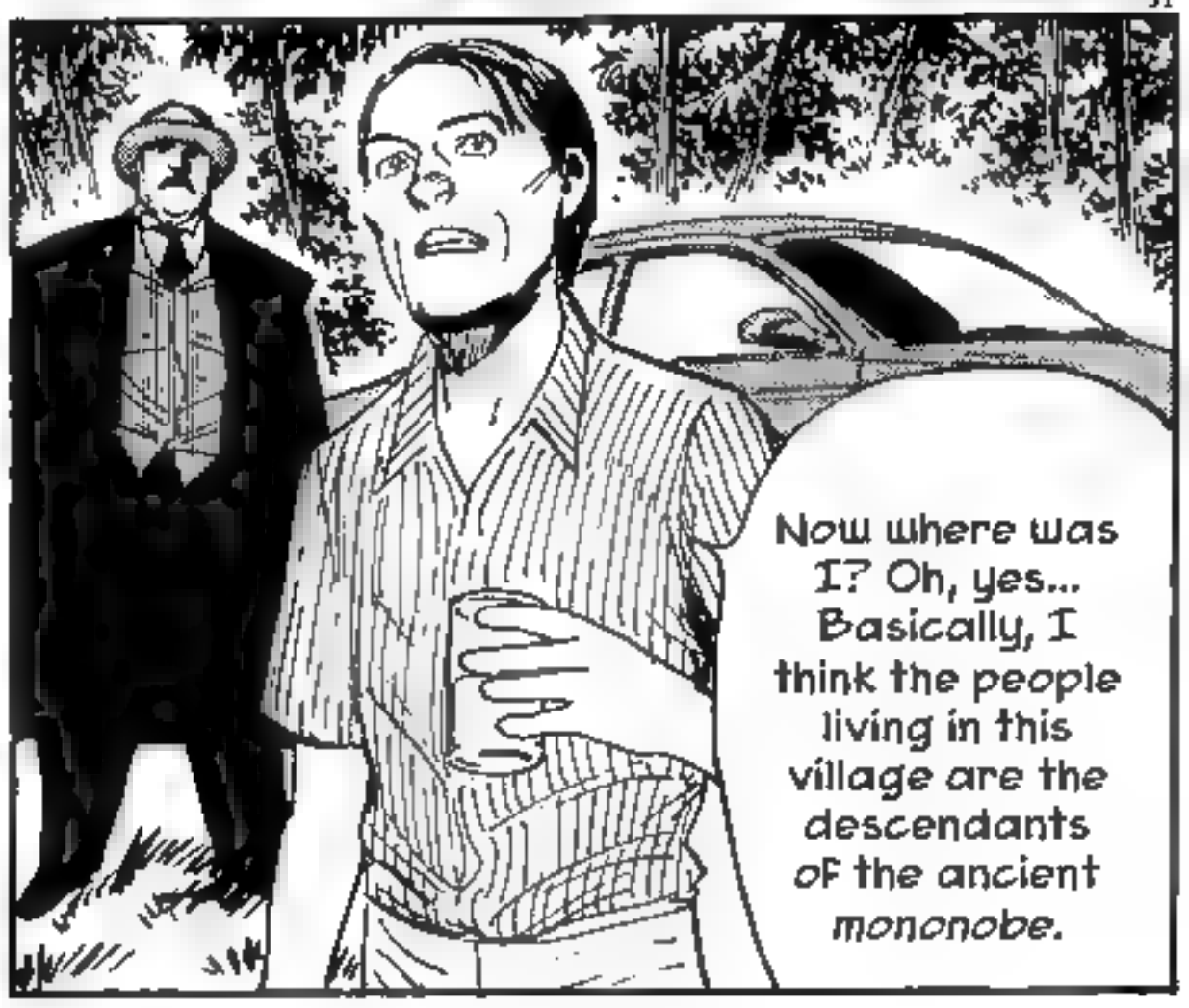

GAHAHA-HAHA!!
JAGGA-JAH!
WOOOOOOOOOOOO!




Those are the out-of-prefecture boys from this morning. Young people these days...




The mononobe of objects and spirits, who forged metal ritual tools and conducted the same rituals...


Now where was I? Oh, yes... Basically, I think the people living in this village are the descendants of the ancient mononobe.





They lived deep in the mountains to secure charcoal for fuel, isolated from the farming peasants...

The *mononobe* that remained lived on as *tatara* or swordsmiths.

But with the establishment of the Yamato throne and the spread of Buddhism, the role of conducting rituals moved to the Emperor and other clans, and they finally declined with the defeat of Mononobe-no-Moriya...

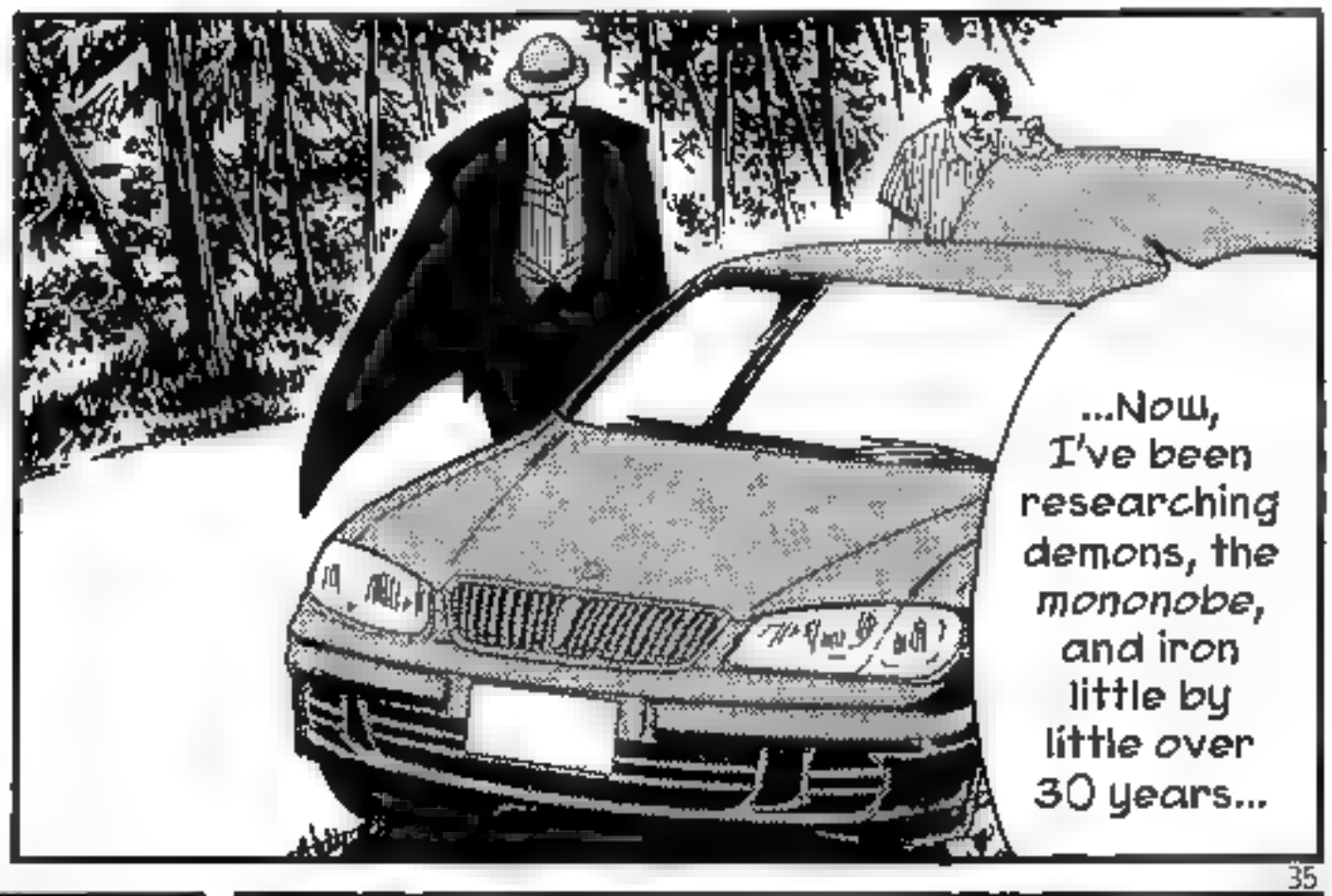
And when the peasants caught the occasional glimpse of them...

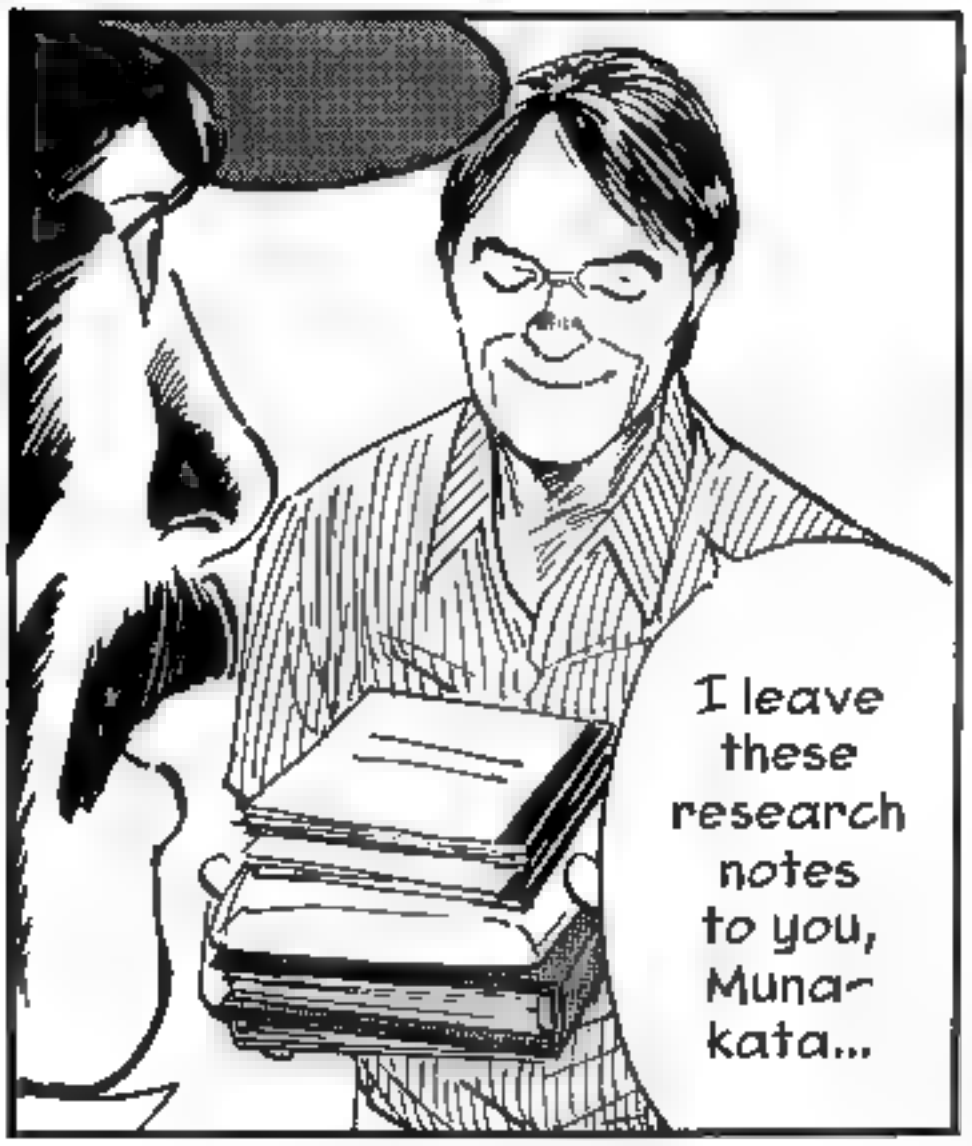
The sight of them moving amidst the raging fire and noise left them with a grotesque image...




The men that migrated in search of iron ore and fuel must have kidnapped women from the villages from time to time.
That turned into the legends of demons capturing and eating women...




...Now, I've been researching demons, the mononobe, and iron little by little over 30 years...


I leave these research notes to you, Munakata...



It's too plain a topic. They won't publish my book unless it tackles a more exciting subject.

And above all, I feel like they'll be a lot more useful in your hands... That's why I asked you here today...

...Why, Wakao? You could just put them into a book yourself.

...I see. Well, I'll hold on to them for now.

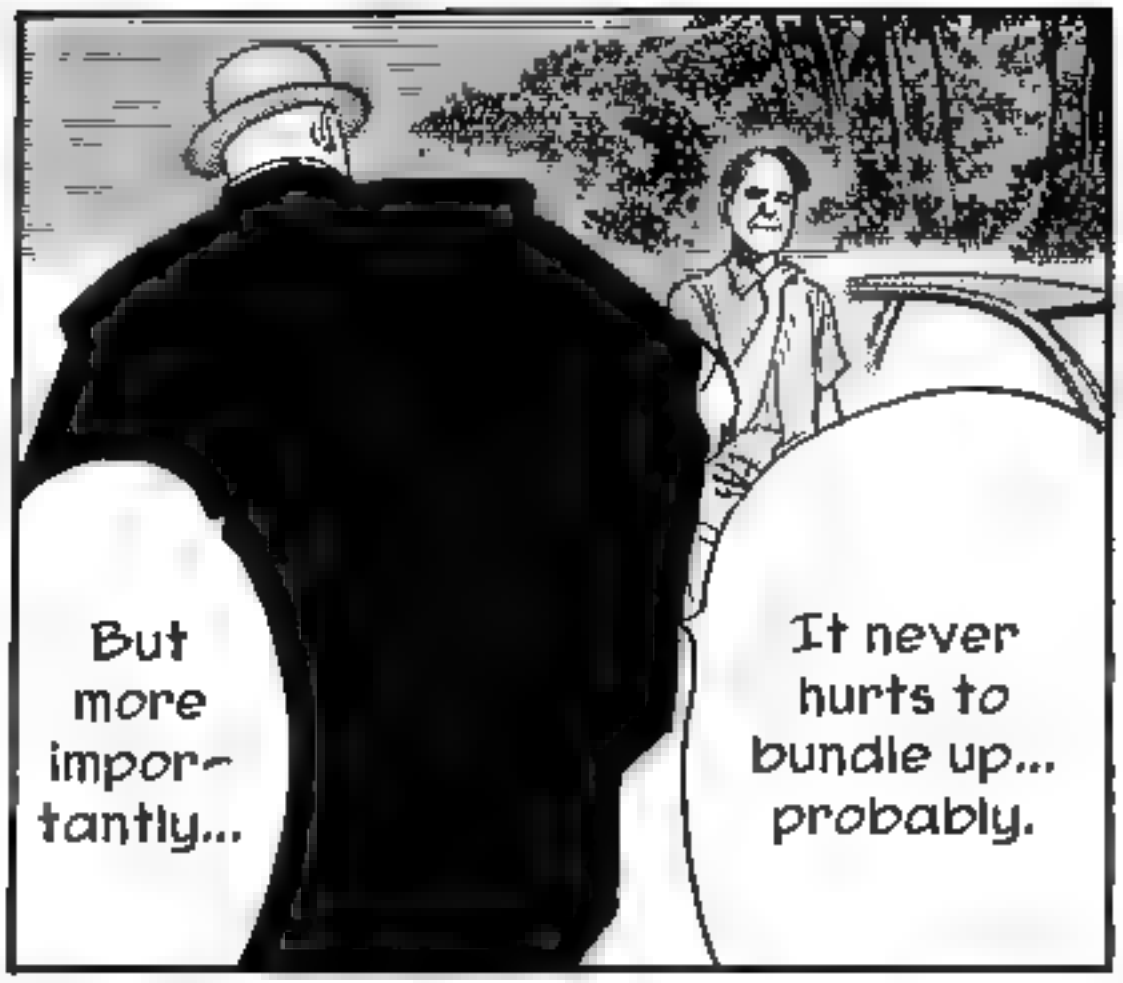
36

Heheh... I'm used to the heat.

By the way, can I ask you something? You've always worn stuffy attire, but... aren't you hot in that outfit?

.....


I've been thinking about these "demons" from another angle.


But more impor-tantly...
It never hurts to bundle up... probably.


Hashi-hime...
Do you know the story of Hashihime, where a heartbroken noblewoman's daughter transforms into a demon during the reign of Emperor Saga?


They say she wore a ring of iron with three torches on her head, sub-merged herself in the Uji River for 21 days, then became a demon and killed her romantic rivals one by one.



Hashihime's style is known as the legend of the "Iron Ring" and connected to the Hour of the Ox Ritual... The three "horns" on the iron ring were meant to turn that person into a demon.

Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture Yamana Haraguchi Excavation Site II Human *Haniwa*

But I think that this demonic image existed even before then!

The "Chibusan" Burial Mound in Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyushu, has a portrait depicting what they call the White Shaman.

宗像教授異考録 3

They say that the *mononobe* existed from the days of the Kingdom of Yamatai, so Queen Himiko may have worn this horned iron ring as depicted in this wall-painting!

"... Her name was Himiko She occupied herself with magic and sorcery, bewitching the people." The History of Wei

Demons, iron rings, sorcery... This flow may be connected to the way by which the demons came, literally!

Your eyes haven't changed a bit, Munakata...

40

So what's next? The roots of demons... Let's have a drink while we talk.

Are you sure you're alright? Your legs are shaking!

Don't be ridiculous! I'm not that old yet!

Did you hear that?

Hear what?

I'm going to have a look. You stay here.

We should call a doctor... No, we should first inform the residential officer in the next town!

WAIT!

T...They died on impact... All three of 'em... That's awful...




We can report this to the police any time. We just have to say we didn't notice for a while.


Old Kuki, you're not suggesting ...!?


So it was an accident! Looks like the villagers discovered it.


Four Demon Gods ...?


B...But we can't do this!
The "Monogurui" needs Four Demon Gods: Kaki, Fuki, Suiki, and Kinki!
Cover it up more, so you can't see it from overhead!

WHO'S THERE !?

Crack!

We'll hide them for a day or two, and give up if we can't find the last one...

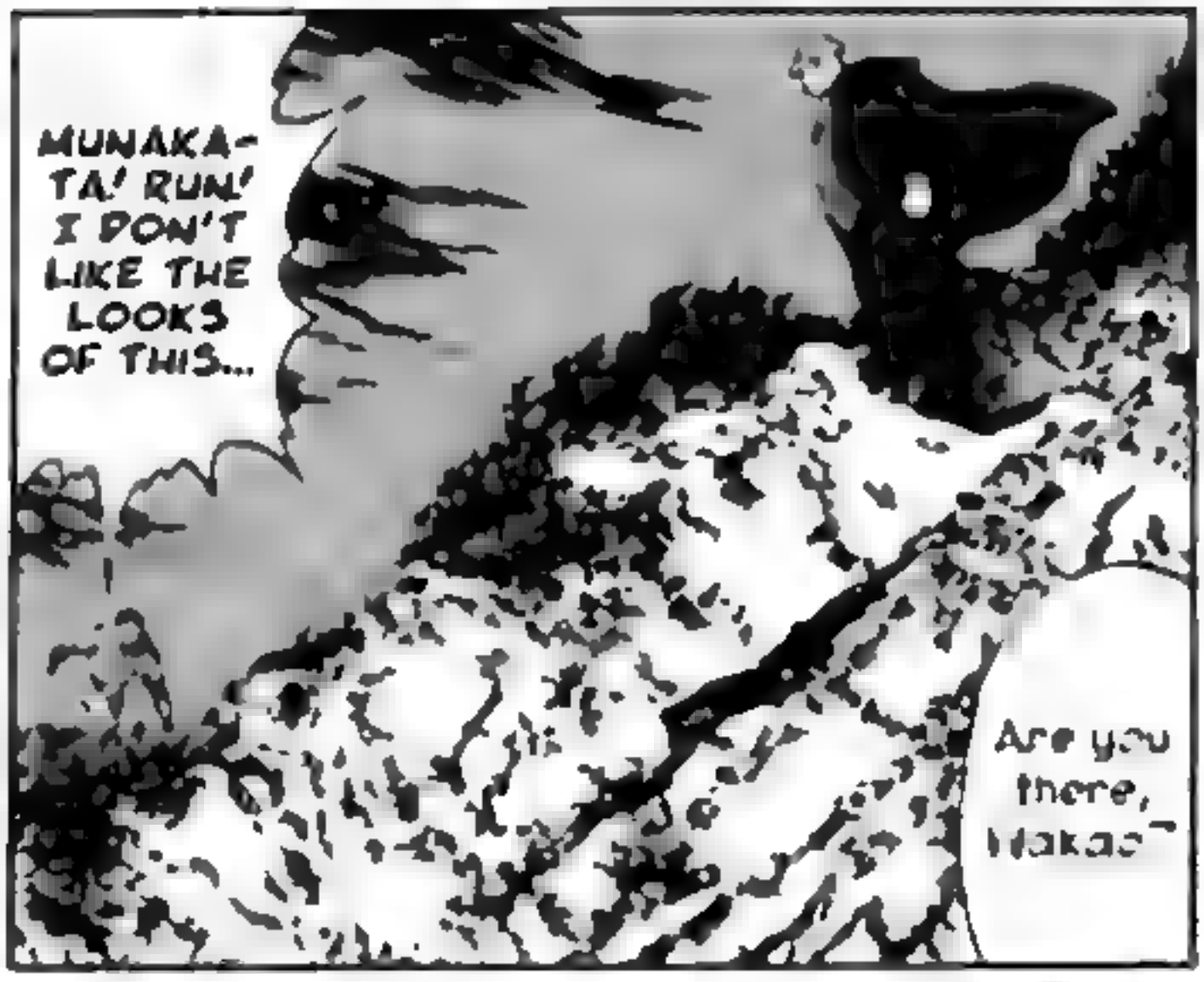
!

44

HE HEARD US!

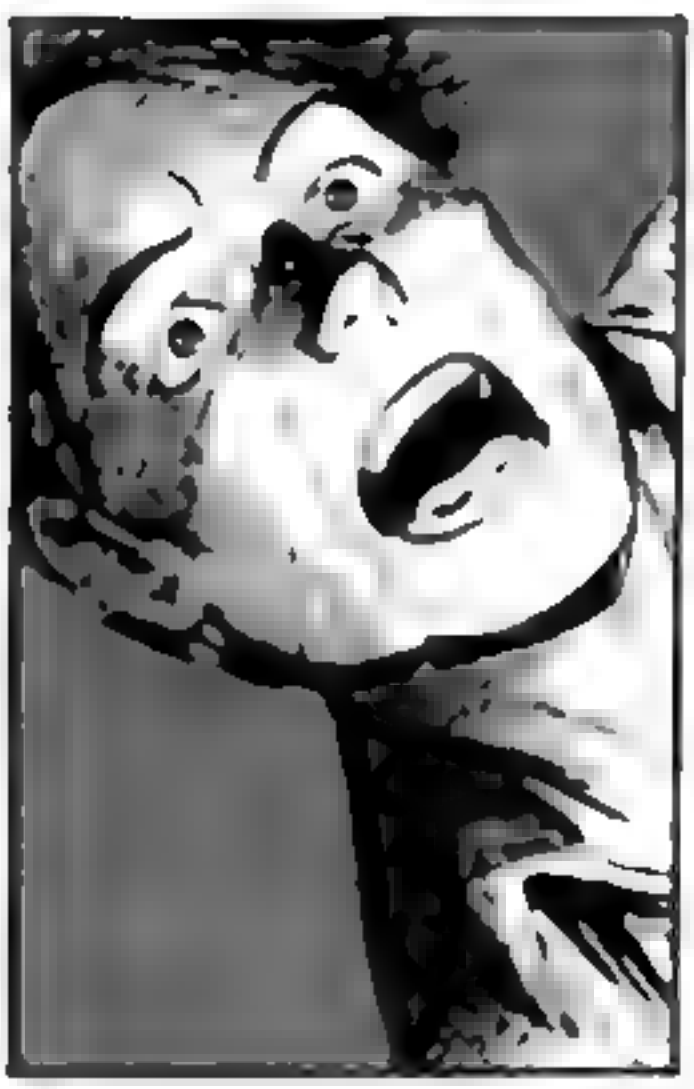
IT'S THE OUT-SIDER!




MUNAKA-
TA! RUN!
I DON'T
LIKE THE
LOOKS
OF THIS...
Are you
there,
Makab-


WAAA
AA...
AAAA
UGH...

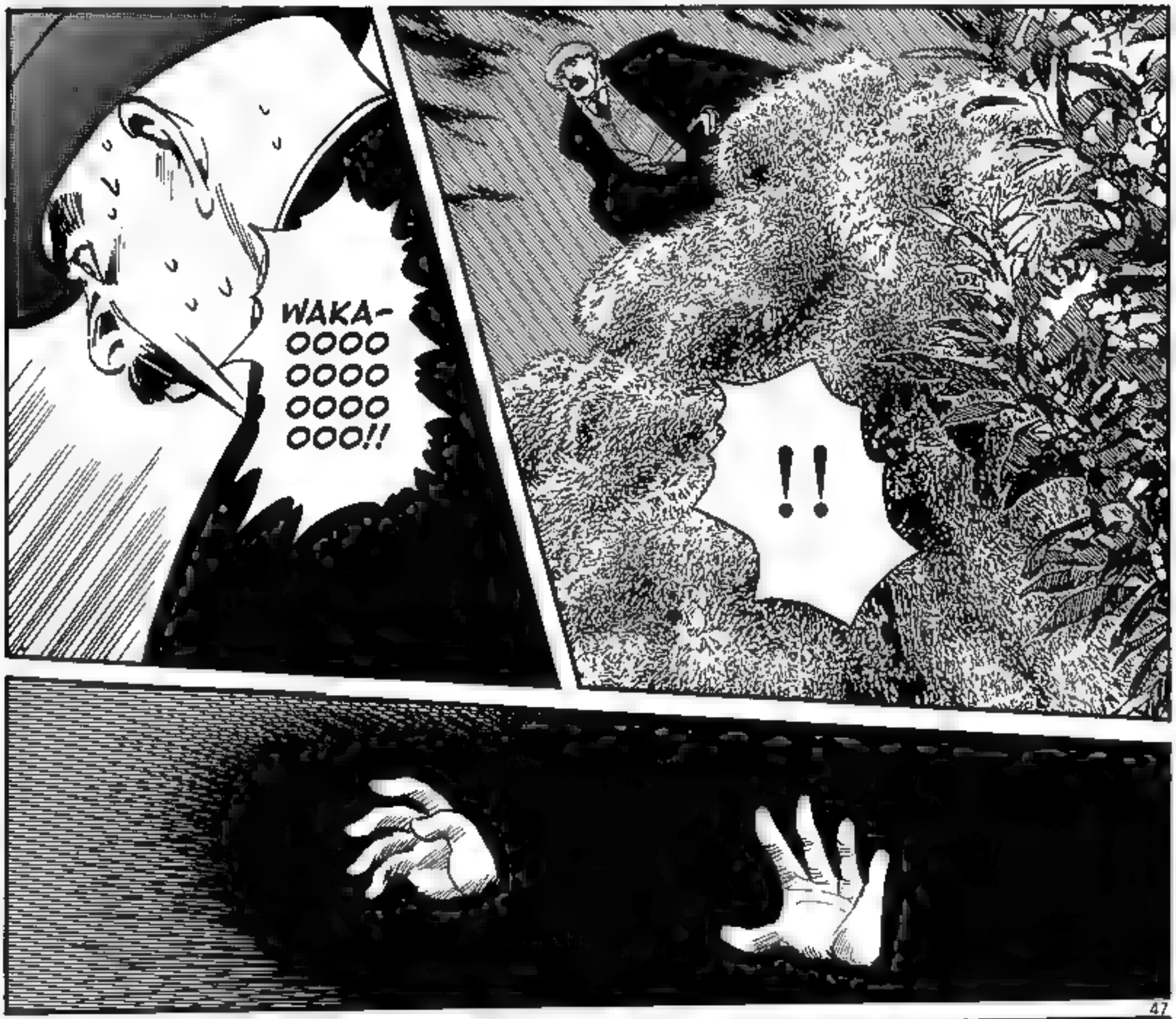


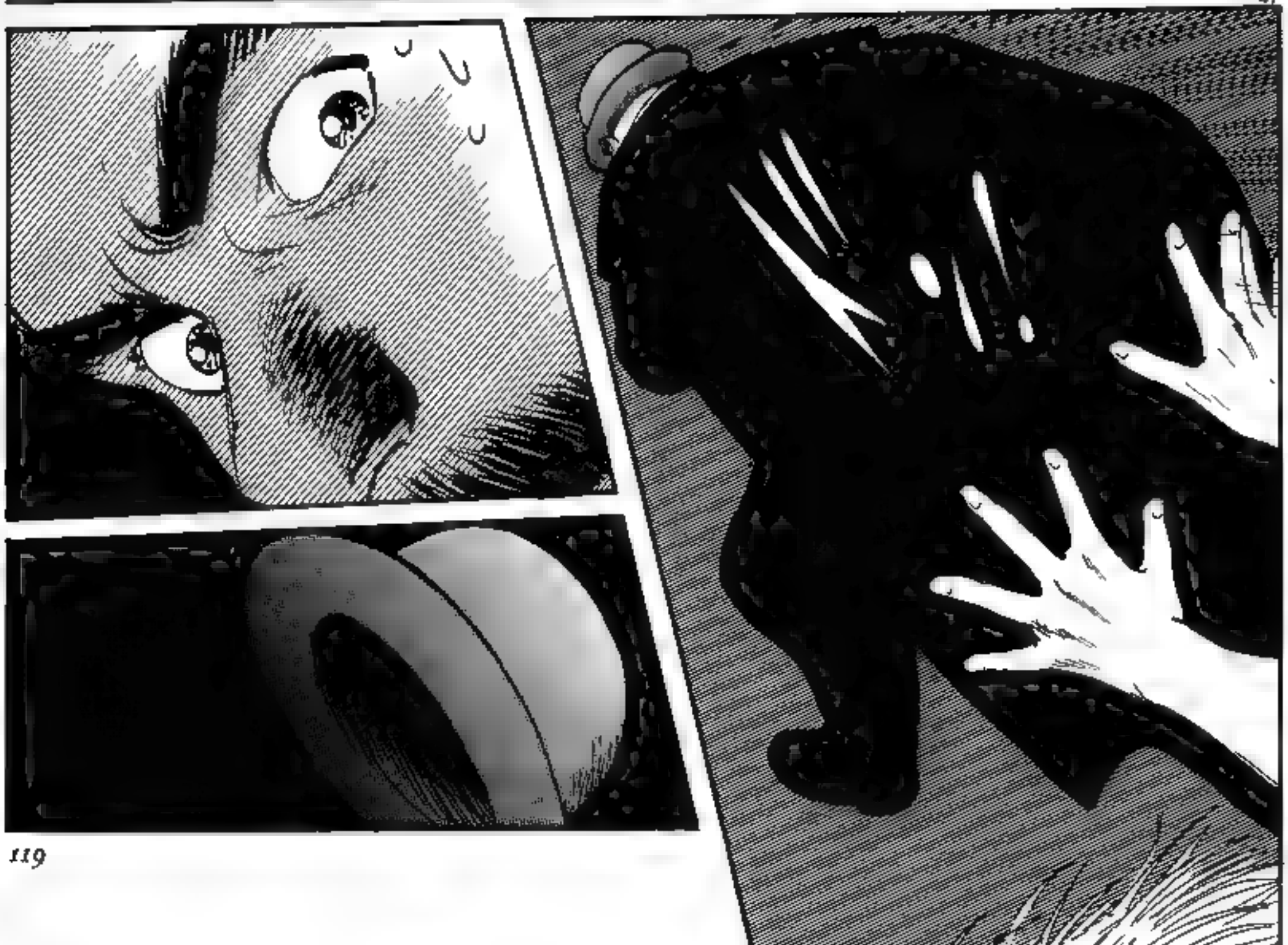




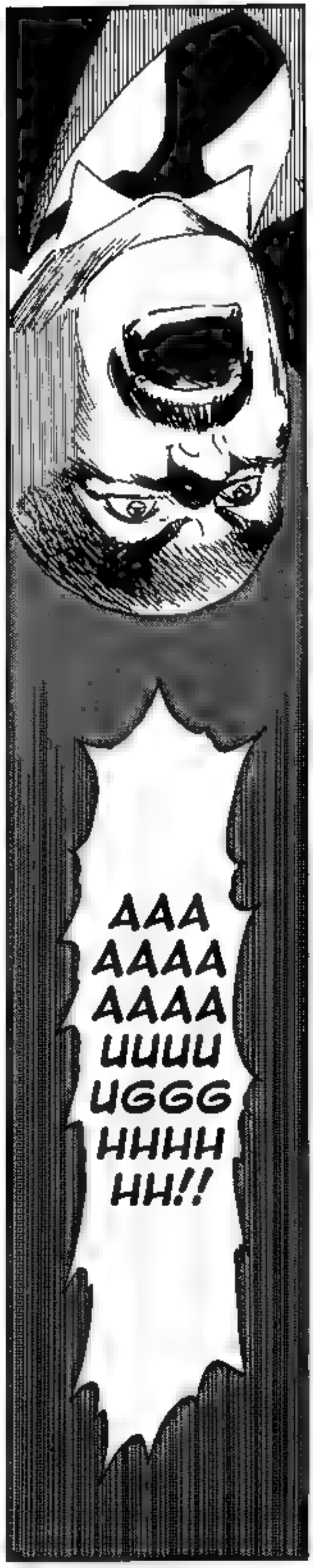
WAKAO !?

MUNA-KATA-AAAA AAAA AAAA AAA!!


WAKA-
OOOO
OOOO
OOOO
OOO!!
!!






AAA
AAAA
AAAA
UUUU
UGGG
HHHH
HH!!



I can't find him anywhere...

Well, he fell from that height, so I doubt he could've survived...

...He's not here. You find him over there?

We didn't kill them, you idiot!

They all died by accident! Right!?

Five people died in one night...? This may turn into an uproar if anyone finds out...

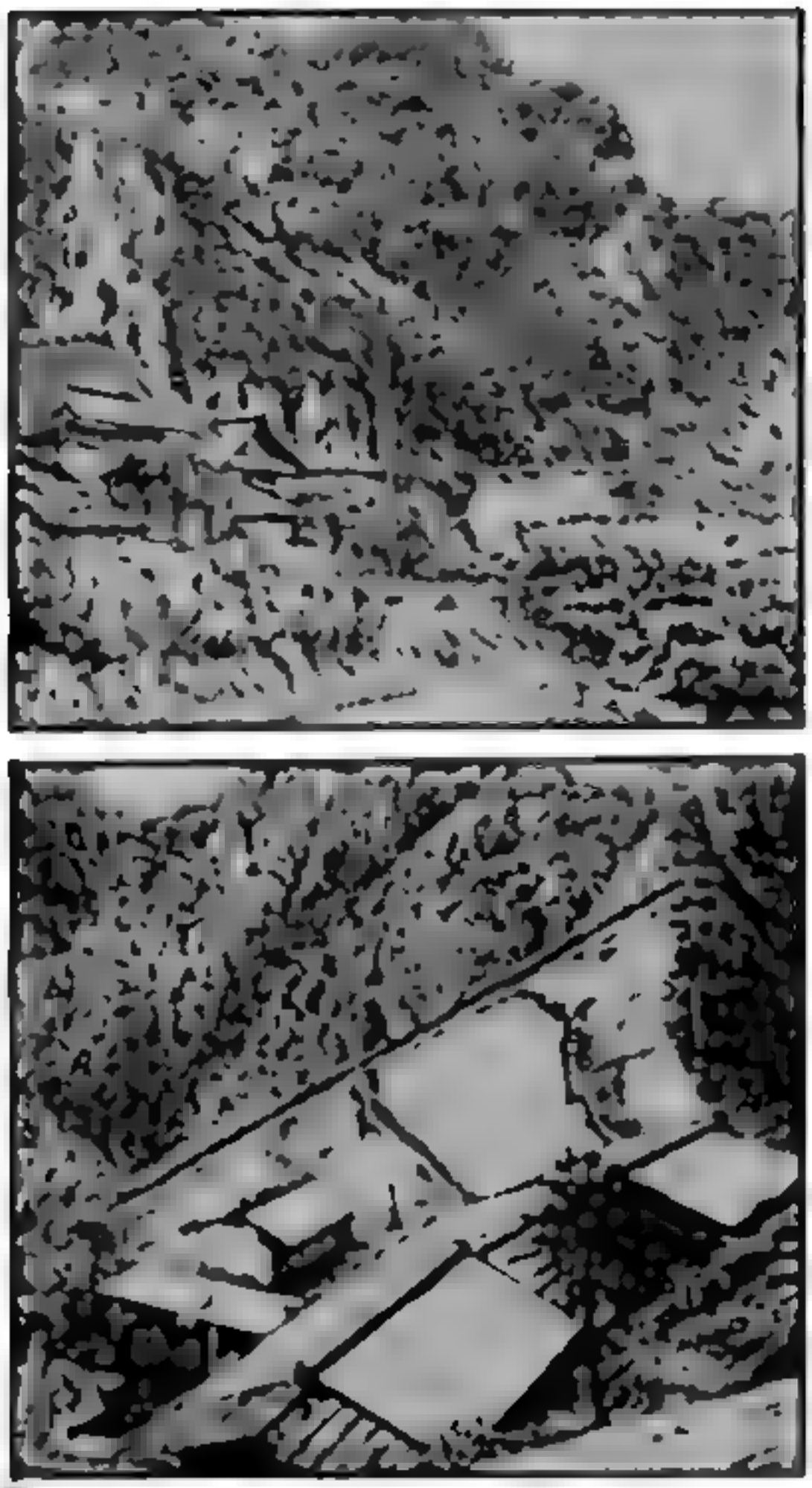

WE MUST BECOME LIKE "DEMONS"!
Hide the car in the thicket, just for the day. We'll take it to the residential officer tomorrow.
It's not often that we have all Four Demon Gods together in one place!

LET'S HOLD THE "MONO-GURUI" TO DEFEND OUR VILLAGE AGAINST FOREIGN FOES!

There's going to be a good wind blowing tonight.

We're making a "Field *tatara*"! Gather the charcoal!








HIKE


SWISH


WHAT

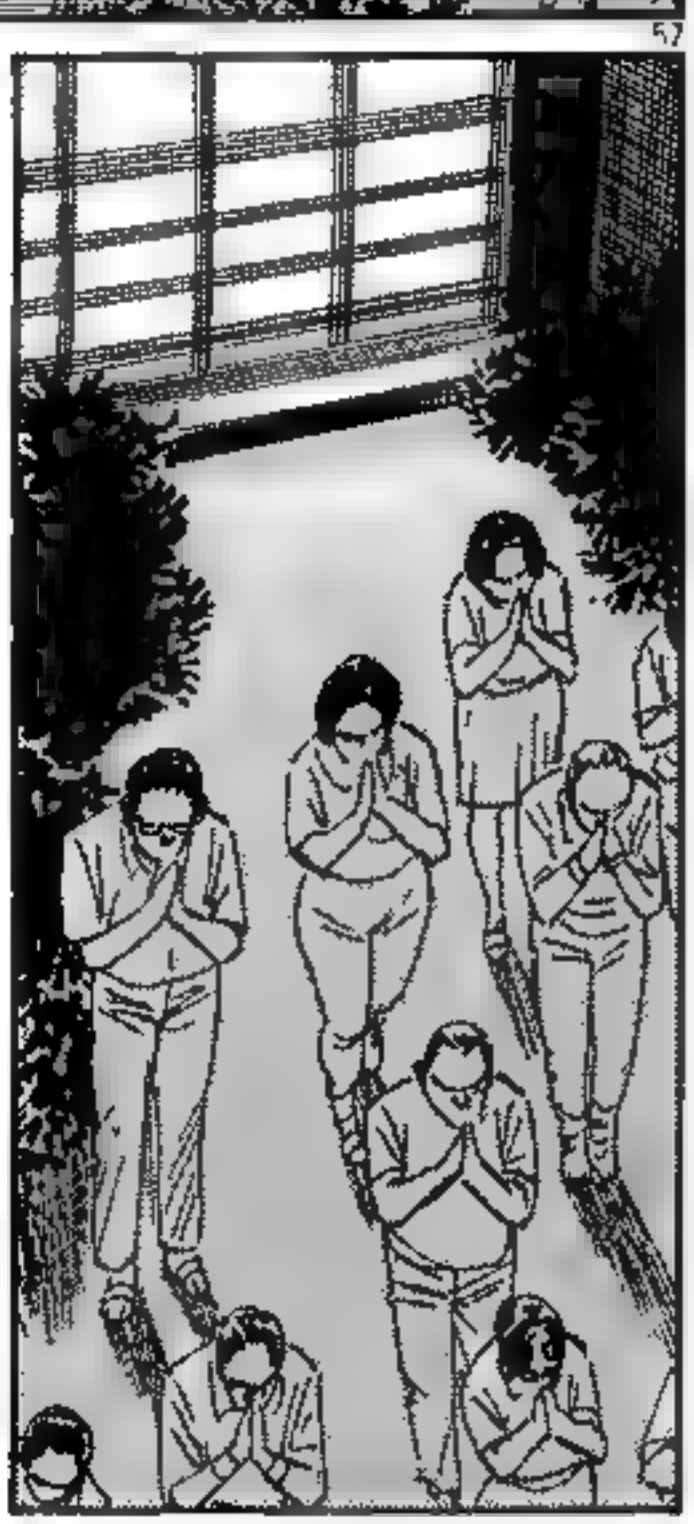


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OH HHH HHH HHH H...

OHH HHH HHH HHH HHH H...

KAKI!

FUKI!

SUIKI!

THE DEMON GODS OF THE FOUR PILLARS ARE PLEASED!

OHHHH HHHHH! THE GOD-DESS KANA-YAKO IS PLEASED!

KINKI!

WE WILL SMELT GOOD IRON TO-NIGHT!

THE MONO-NOBE WILL BE PRO-TECTED BY GOOD MONO!

Some-thing is appro-aching us...!

Some-thing is coming ...





SO THOSE ARE THE "HORNS" OF TSUNU-GA-ARASHI-TO... THE IRON RING!

62

IT ORIGI-NATED WITH THE EURA-SIAN SHA-MANS !!

THEY WORE HORNED IRON RINGS ON THEIR HEADS TO BATTLE EVIL SPIRITS AND COMPETE WITH OTHER SHAMANS!

THE HORNS WERE A SYMBOL THAT THEY WERE A MORE POWERFUL SHAMAN!

Kudyrg Cemetery, East Altai
Rock Painting of Shaman

THEY WORE HORNS ON THEIR BODIES, ADORNED THEMSELVES WITH METAL MIRRORS AND BELLS, AND BEAT DRUMS TO MAKE A LOUD NOISE!

THE WORD "TATARA" COMES FROM TATAR, WHICH WAS THE REGION WHERE BLACK-SMITHS AND SHAMANS WERE LIKENED TO BROTHERS!

NATURALLY, IT WAS THE BLACKSMITHS WHO MADE THOSE METAL TOOLS... AND THEY HAD AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH SHAMANS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES!

THE MONO OF OBJECTS AND SPIRITS... THIS WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE MONONOBE!

THE CULTURE OF THE BLACK-SMITHS AND SHAMANS WAS TRANSMITTED AS "SORCERY", AND THEY BECAME THE MONONOBE AFTER THE KINGDOM OF YAMATAI

TSUNUGA-ARASHITO PROBABLY REPRESENTED THE LAST MONONOBE TO ARRIVE IN JAPAN... THE "DEMONS"...

THE "DEMONS" REFER TO THE ROSTER OF SOULS, THE DEMON GODS... THEY REPRESENT THE DEAD!

THERE IS AN ANCIENT INDIAN MYTH THAT STATES THAT GOOD IRON CAN BE SMELTED WITH HUMAN SACRIFICES. THAT MAY COINCIDE WITH THE "TATARA" PRACTICE OF PLACING CORPSES BY THE FOUNDRY...








THANK GOOD-NESS...
I... I...
P...PROFES-SOR MU-NAKATA! YOU'RE ALIVE!!


I WAS SO WORRIED THAT I TAGGED ALONG AFTER YOU...!




I TOLD THE PRIEST THAT YOU COULD CAUSE TROU-BLE FOR THE VILLAGE BY LOOKING INTO OUR RITUALS AND WRITING THE UNTHINK-ABLE...





WAAAAAAAAAAAAUGH!

SO I WENT UP TO YOU, THE ONLY LIVING WITNESS, AND...!

THEN PEOPLE DIED ONE AFTER ANOTHER, AND IF ALL OF THIS CAME TO LIGHT, OUR PEACEFUL LITTLE VILLAGE WOULD BE WRAPPED UP IN A MAJOR SCANDAL! AND ALL BECAUSE I SHOWED YOU TO THE VILLAGE...

THAT WAS WHEN I HAD BECOME A "DEMON"...!

Wakao ...

.....

Did you get a good look at the *Monogurui* Ritual?

70

Pro-
Fessor
Muna-
kata....!

All the deaths here were accidental... All acci-dental!

...I won't speak a word of this to anyone!

...If you are a demon, then so am I...

Don't worry. I'll continue your research for you.

I'll be lonely...

But...



THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 9

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING

CHAPTER 10: MONTH OF THE GODS

Izumo

They presumed that there was a pillar there consisting of three large cedars bound together, over three meters in diameter in total.

In April 2004, the root of a massive pillar was excavated from the grounds of Izumo Grand Shrine in Shimane Prefecture

宗像教授異考録 3

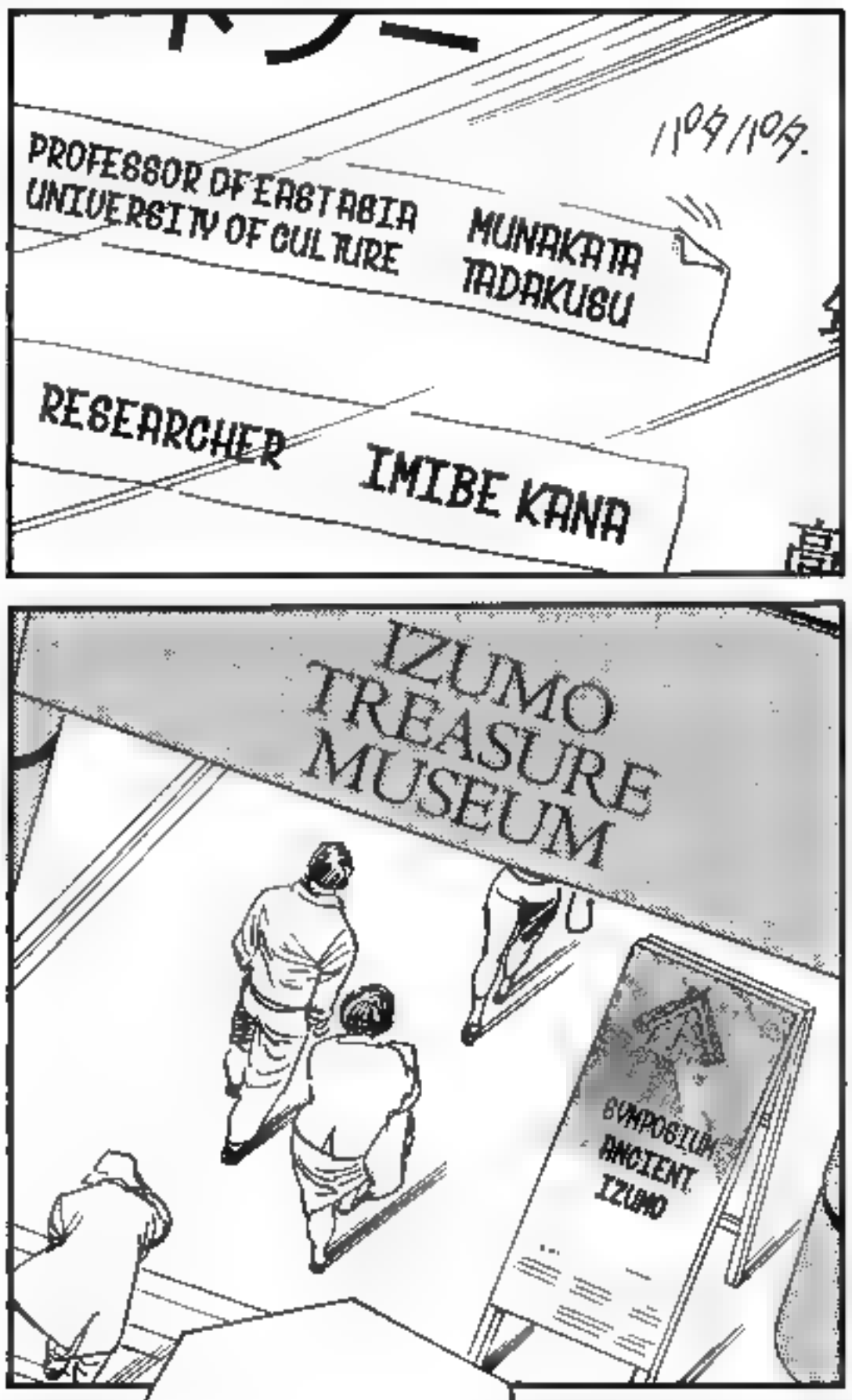
They calculated that it was possible for it to support such a large structure if the pillars were bound with metal rings and extended vertically, just as with the pillar in Todai Temple's Great Buddha Hall.

With the discovery of the three meter pillar, the possibility that this legendary structure existed increased.

The inner sanctuary of Izumo Grand Shrine is currently well over 20 meters tall, but they say that in ancient times it stood well over double that.. 48 meters tall.

The stairway to the inner citadel would have been 100 meters in length ..

The wooden structure with no parallel in this world, the super high rise shrine of the ancient Izumo Grand Shrine, may have actually existed.


PROFESSOR OF EAST ASIA
UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE
MUNAKATA
TADAKUSU
RESEARCHER
IMIBE KANA
IZUMO
TREASURE
MUSEUM
SYMPOSIUM
ANCIENT
IZUMO
SYMPOSIUM
ANCIENT
IZUMO
パネラー
...And this ends our keynote speech on "Ancient Izumo". This afternoon, we will be holding a panel discussion with our seven guests.

SIGN: IZUMO AIRPORT

Looks like I just can't get rid of you! I never thought I'd run into you here!

Well, I couldn't help it!

I'm filling in for Professor Yoshida Yuko, who couldn't come because of her schedule, while you're pinch-hitting for some other big-name researcher! I had no idea you would be here until I ran into you on the plane! I would've cancelled if I'd known ahead of time!

Like-wise!

.....

The Sea of Japan looks stormy today...

They say that when a sea serpent rises from the stormy sea in the "Month of the Gods", it heralds the advent of the gods...

But they say that all the gods assemble in Izumo, so it's known as the "Month of the Gods" in this region alone.

Yeah... The tenth month of the lunar calendar is known as the "Month Without Gods"... because all the gods of Japan disappear that month.

"Month of the Gods"...?

The gods may be one thing, but we've got all the scholars

which stands behind Izumo Grand Shrine, is regarded as the residence of the deity Onamuchi, and entry to the mountain is strictly forbidden

was the Izumo Treasure Museum.

シンポジウム
古代出雲の

The storm zone will soon be covering the San'in Region, and we're predicting heavy rain in some areas...

The large and vigorous Typhoon 28 has changed its course from the Kyushu Sea, and is heading northeast through the Sea of Japan.

This isn't looking good. We got a directive to send our audience home.

IS THE SYMPO-SIUM CAN-CELLED !?

Kitajo ...

Director Nagai, I've brought Professor Munakata and Dr. Imibe.

10

.....

ENOKI

Let's go to the waiting room. The guests are all big-name scholars. We have to give them our greetings.

You're right.

Oh, it's a pleasure...

You're just like the storm god Susanoo. You've brought the typhoon with you. Hahaha...

So, you're Professor Munakata. I've heard rumors of you...

I'm Hirabaru Yoshitake, an archaeologist from Kyushu Chikugo University.

O...Oh, I'm not...

And you must be Imibe Kana. You're the lone goddess among us.

These are the authorities on mythological studies, Professor Matsura Takeo from Shikoku, and Professor Emeritus Umeda Takashi from Kyoto.


And this is Dr. Enami Kuninobu, a cultural anthropologist from Kanazawa, and Director Taniyama Yuta of the Tohoku Museum of Folklore.
I...I'm even younger than he is, but I look forward to working with you.
I'm Munakata Tadakusu. I may be your junior, but I look forward to working with you.
All of you have such great theories... I've been reading your works ever since I was a student.


Haha ha...
Now, there's no need for those formalities. Have some tea.



Oh, Mr. Yokozuki! The nearby road's been blocked off. We won't be leaving here for a while!

What's the matter!?

A LAND-SLIDE!?

Y...You're kidding! Dr. Imibe has to be back in Tokyo by tonight! Our TV coverage for tomorrow and manuscripts for our magazine depend on her...!

It looks like they've gone to the exhi-bition room.

I'll go explain the situation to the scholars. Are they still in the waiting room?

Exhi-bition room?

In 1996, 39 bronze bells were excavated from Kamo Iwakura Ruins in Izumo. This was the most ever excavated from a single site... and they were 10% of the total number discovered to that point.

Twelve years earlier, 385 bronze swords were excavated from the Kanba Kojin Valley, also in Izumo

This was more than even the total number that had been discovered to that point.

One year after that, fourteen bronze bells and seven bronze dagger-axes were discovered

But why was there a succession of prominent discoveries in Izumo, which had few valuable relics originally ...?

That was supposed to be one of the topics of our symposium...

.....

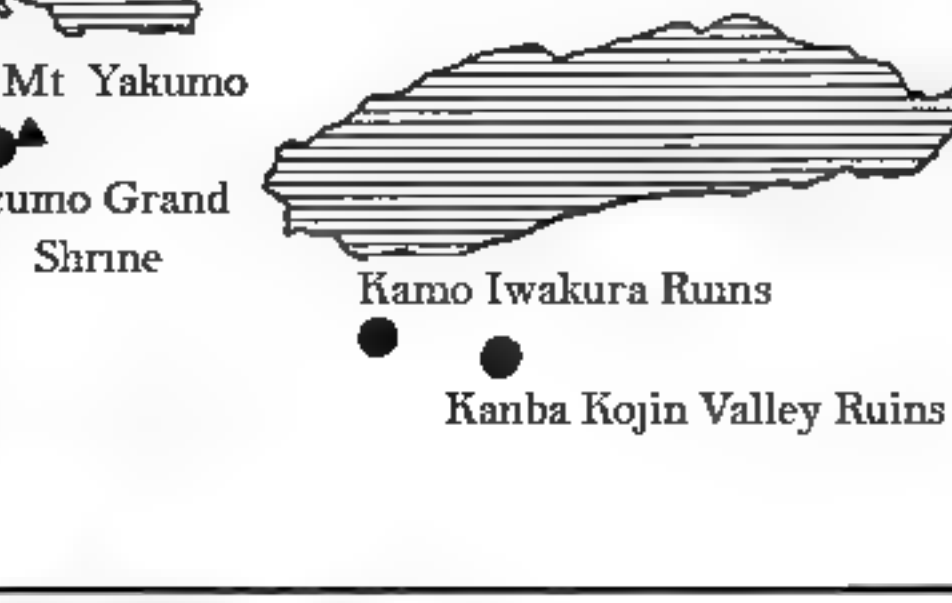
But this quantity would imply that dozens of provinces and villages would celebrate the Festivals and bury these caches all together correct ...?

Some say that they were only used during Festivals, and that they were buried after their use until the next Festival.

Unlike the relics discovered from settlement sites, these bronze bells and swords were purposefully buried by the ancient people in places where nothing else existed.

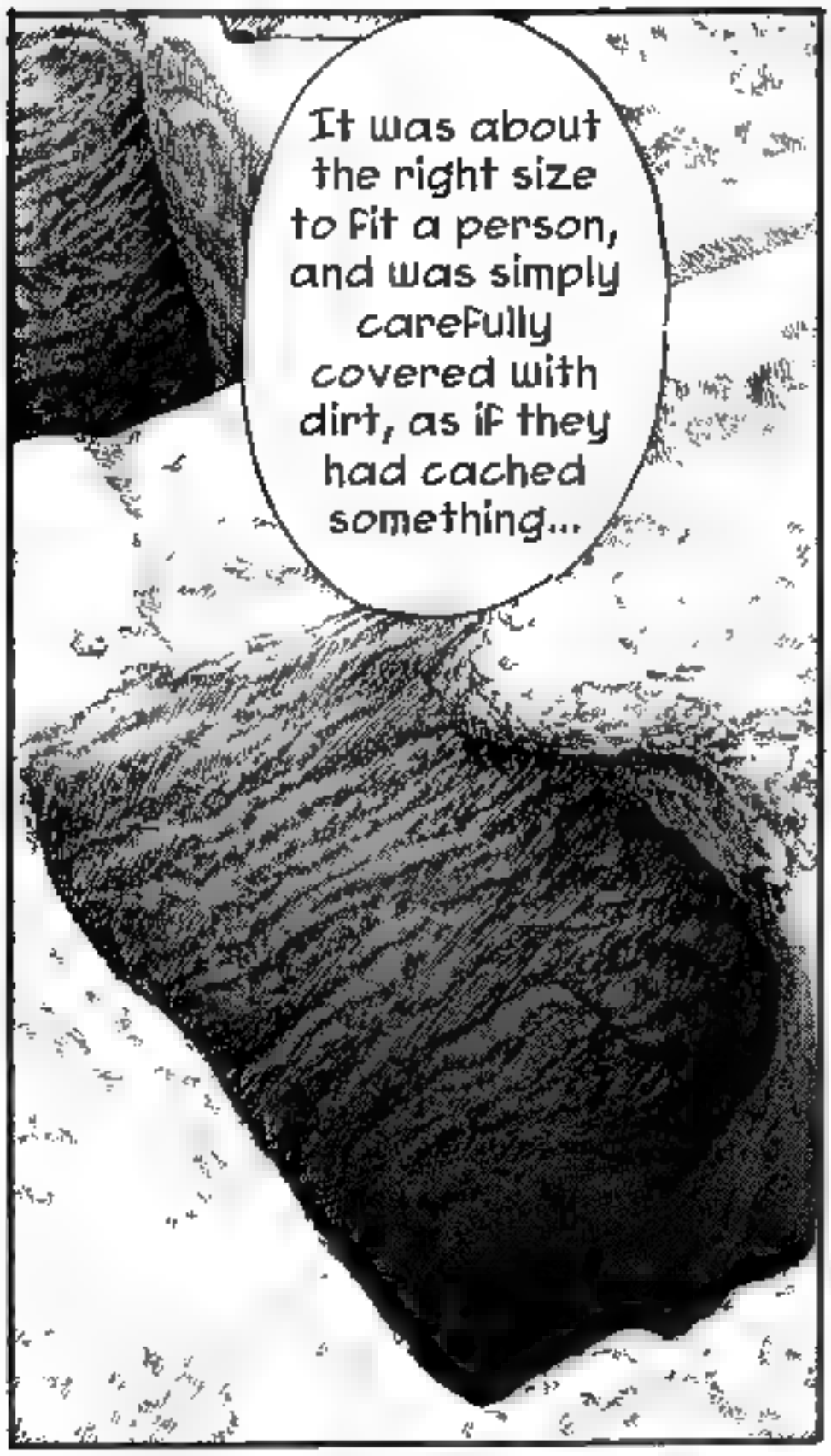
We call them "caches".

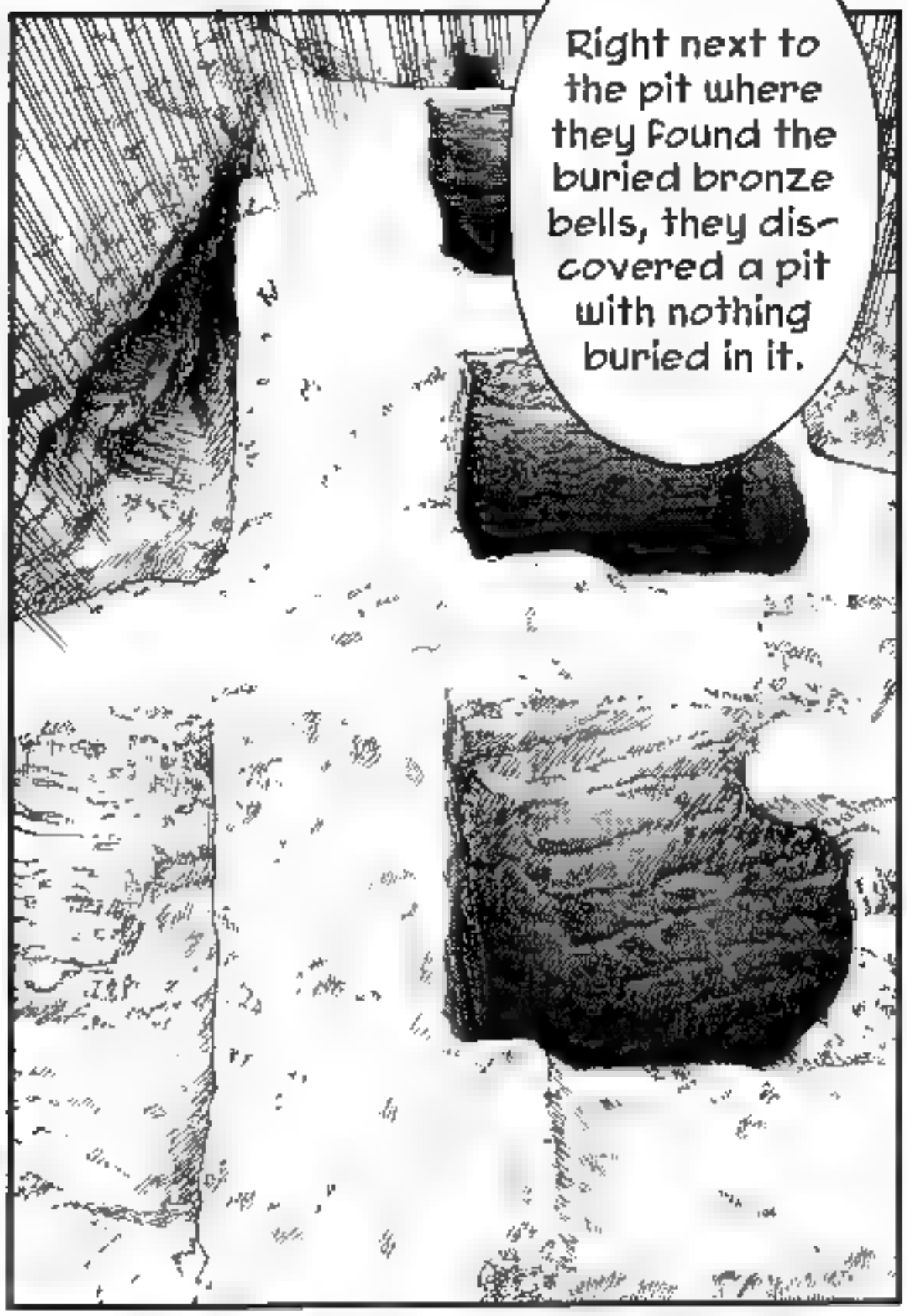
The majority of the bronze bells excavated are of the same type as the bronze bells of the Kinki region, and there's a high probability that these are collections of objects produced elsewhere...



And modern times not withstanding, natural bronze couldn't be mined from ancient Izumo.

There's another mystery...


It was about the right size to fit a person, and was simply carefully covered with dirt, as if they had cached something...


Right next to the pit where they found the buried bronze bells, they discovered a pit with nothing buried in it.


...Hmm.


U... Uhhh...
What do you think about that, Dr. Imibe?
Huh!?

The only ritual tools that were used during the Yamato Court at the time the myths were collected were "bronze mirrors"... They must have forgotten about the earlier ritual tools.

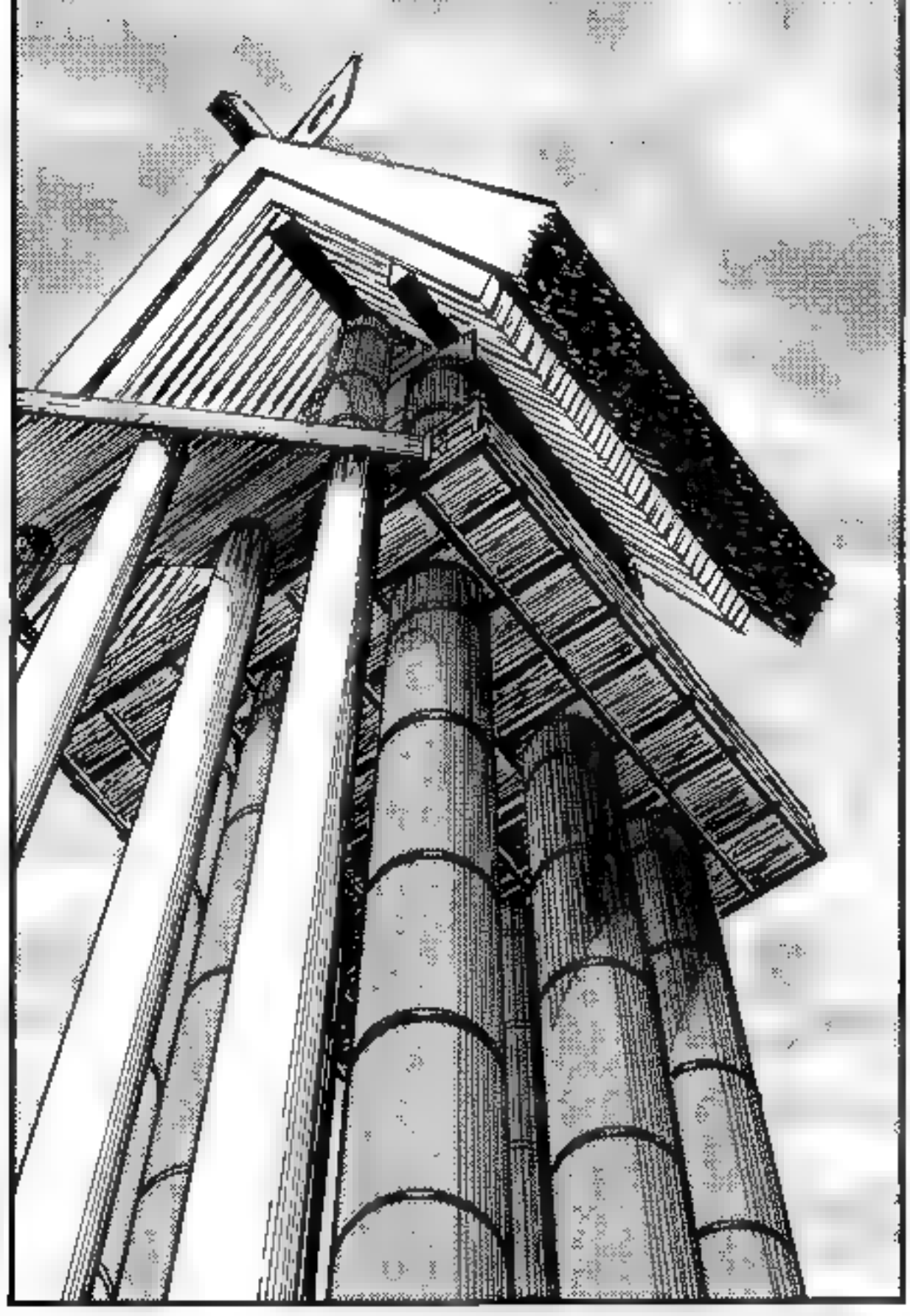
T...The Kojiki and Nihon Shoki don't say anything about bronze bells and bronze swords.

The ancient indigenous gods of Japan, such as Onamuchi of Izumo and Takeminakata of Suwa, yielded the nation to the "Celestial Gods" of Takamagahara and vanished... That's the "Nation-Yielding".

Another thing that was similarly forgotten by the myths was the local gods of Japan... the "Provincial Gods".

At this time, one of the conditions Onamuchi, also known as Okuninushi, set For yielding the nation was that they construct a massive sanctuary in Izumo: "Izumo Grand Shrine".


If the ritual objects were used to worship the gods,
then perhaps mirrors were used to worship the Celestial Gods, and bells and swords to worship the Provincial Gods...







They carried the ancient ritual objects to Izumo...

You mean... that the numerous bronze bells and swords were forcibly cached as a symbol of the Provincial Gods...?

The spirits of the Provincial Gods...!

That is where they buried their "gods"!

But what about the empty pit...?

I...I wasn't going that far... I just said what came to mind.

"I shall hide and wait in the Land of Eighty Nooks".

According to the myth, when Onamuchi yielded the nation and vanished, he said,

Not to mention that many of these excavation sites, from Kanba Kojin Valley to Kono Yamakami Knoll, have the character for "god" in their names...

"The Land of Eighty Nooks" is interpreted as the realm of the dead, but it can be read as the depths of a long, winding valley.

And the majority of these caches with bronze bells were found on the slopes of deep valleys.

And why Izumo...?

The giant sanctuary...

The cache of the Provincial Gods...

24

For your safety, please stay away from the ocean. I repeat, for your safety...

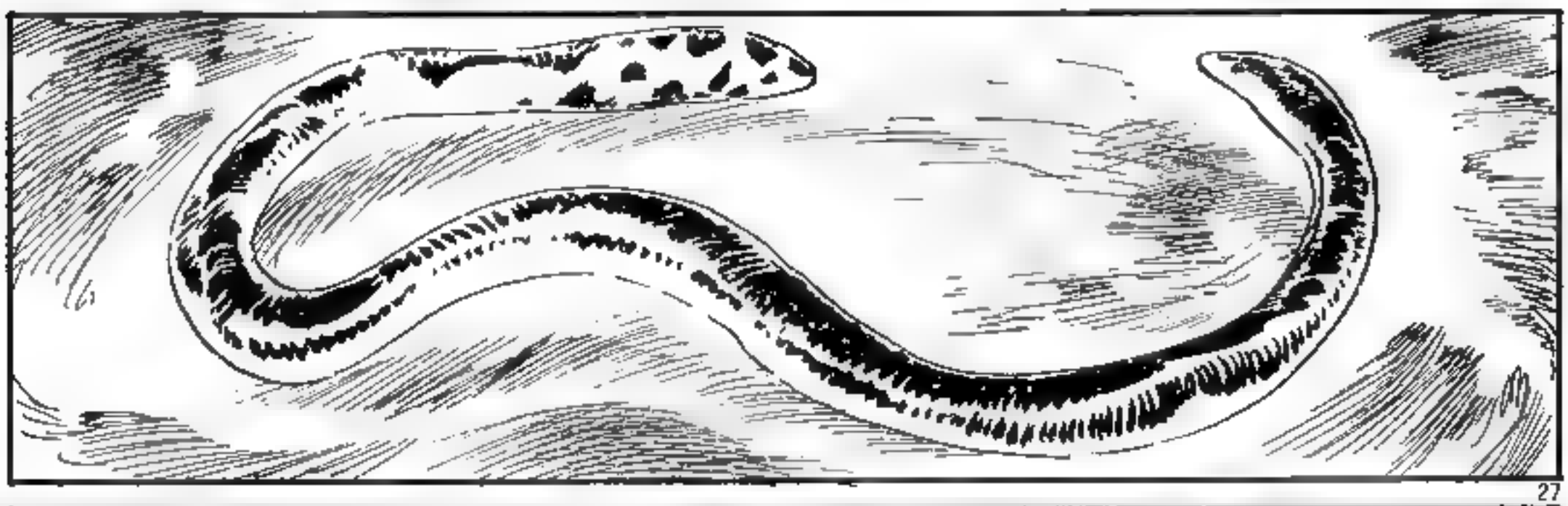
...The typhoon is currently in the waters north of Izumo in Shimane Prefecture, and we're predicting strong winds and rain along the coast of the Sea of Japan...

DAMN, THIS IS ROUGH! THE LAST TYPHOON HAD SOME HEAVY RAIN, BUT IT'S GOT NOTHING ON THIS...

I'M NOT GONNA SIT TIGHT IN MY HOUSE! I GOTTA SAVE MY BOAT!!


IT'S THE DRAGON SERPENT ...!







There's an ancient tradition in the Izumo region that a yellow-bellied sea snake called the "Dragon Serpent" would cross the sea at night in the "Month of the Gods", glittering gold.

In the Nihon Shoki, two beings rise from the sea of Izumo, shining with divine light, and calling themselves Onamuchi's "happy soul and wondrous soul".



This "Serpent God" enshrined on Mt. Miwa in Yamato may be the true identity of Onamuchi...

宗像教授異考録 3

It's clear From pottery and clay figures that snakes were worshipped as gods ever since the Jomon period.

In other words ...

If the ancient gods were cached in Izumo, the majority of them would have been "serpent gods"...!

The Yamato Court would have wanted to eradicate the eerie faith in snakes all at once. That's why they did so in the myths.

I see...

I myself had thought that the snake gods of Izumo and Suwa had fused after the Jomon period.

Come to think of it, the snake in Izumo would be the Yamata-no-Orochi...

Come to think of it, the snake in Izumo would be...

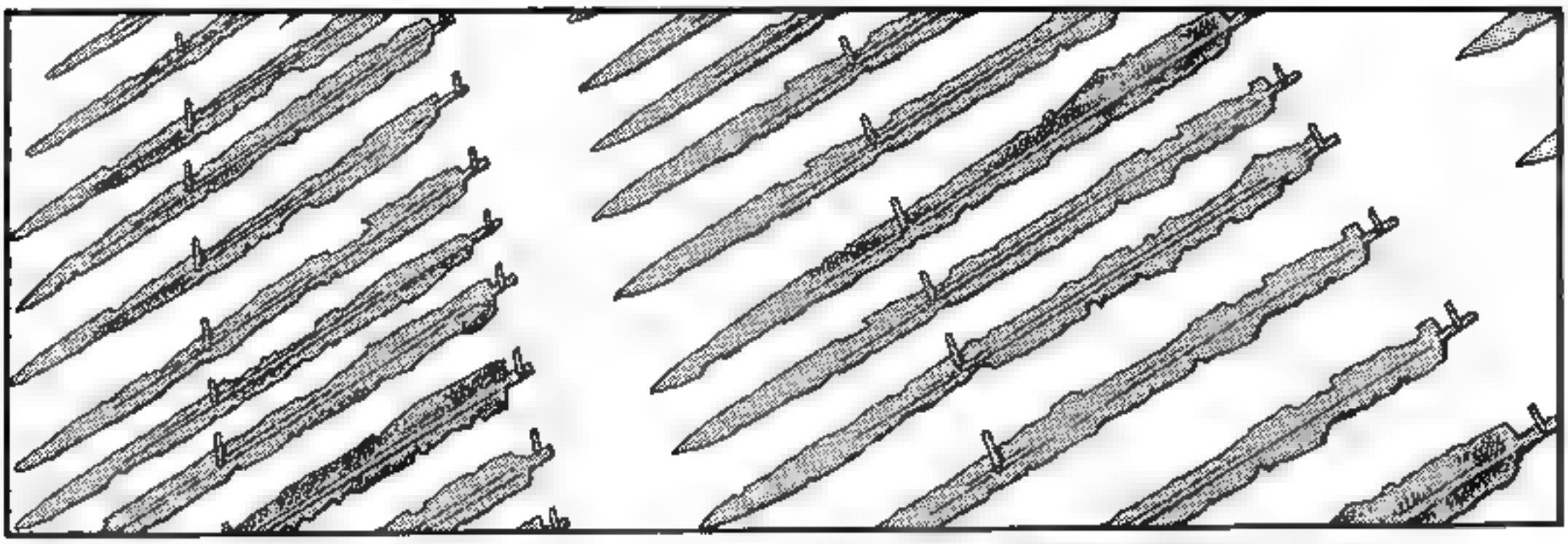
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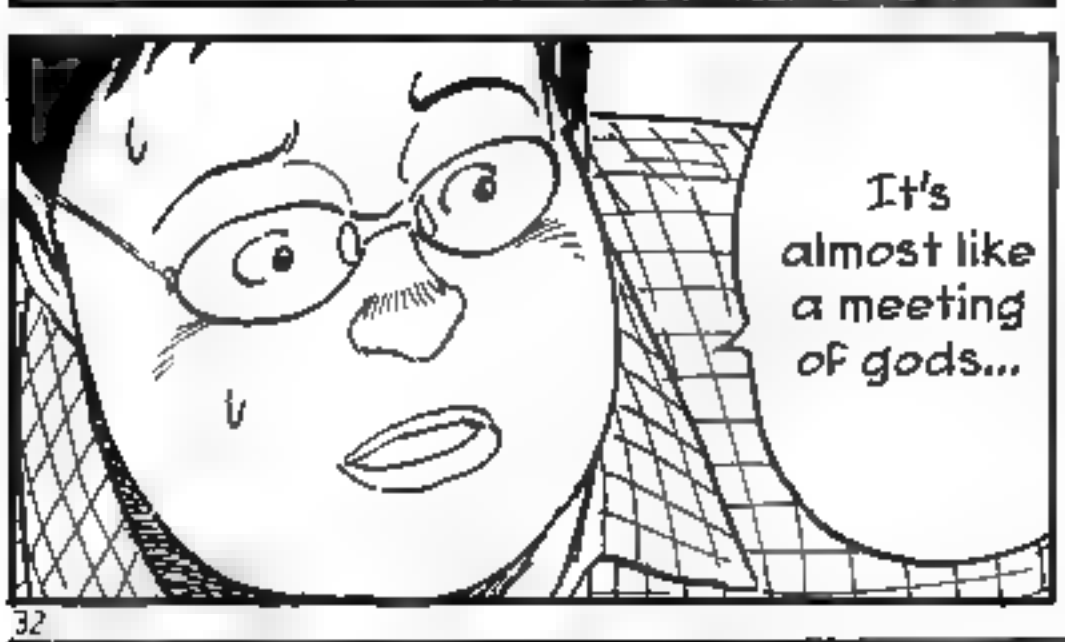
The myth states that the eight-headed great serpent Yamata-no-Orochi was defeated by Susanoo, brother of Amaterasu...

That was a myth where a new god defeated the old gods all at once.




Y...You said it.
They're all archaeologists and Folklorists, but they act so unearthly...

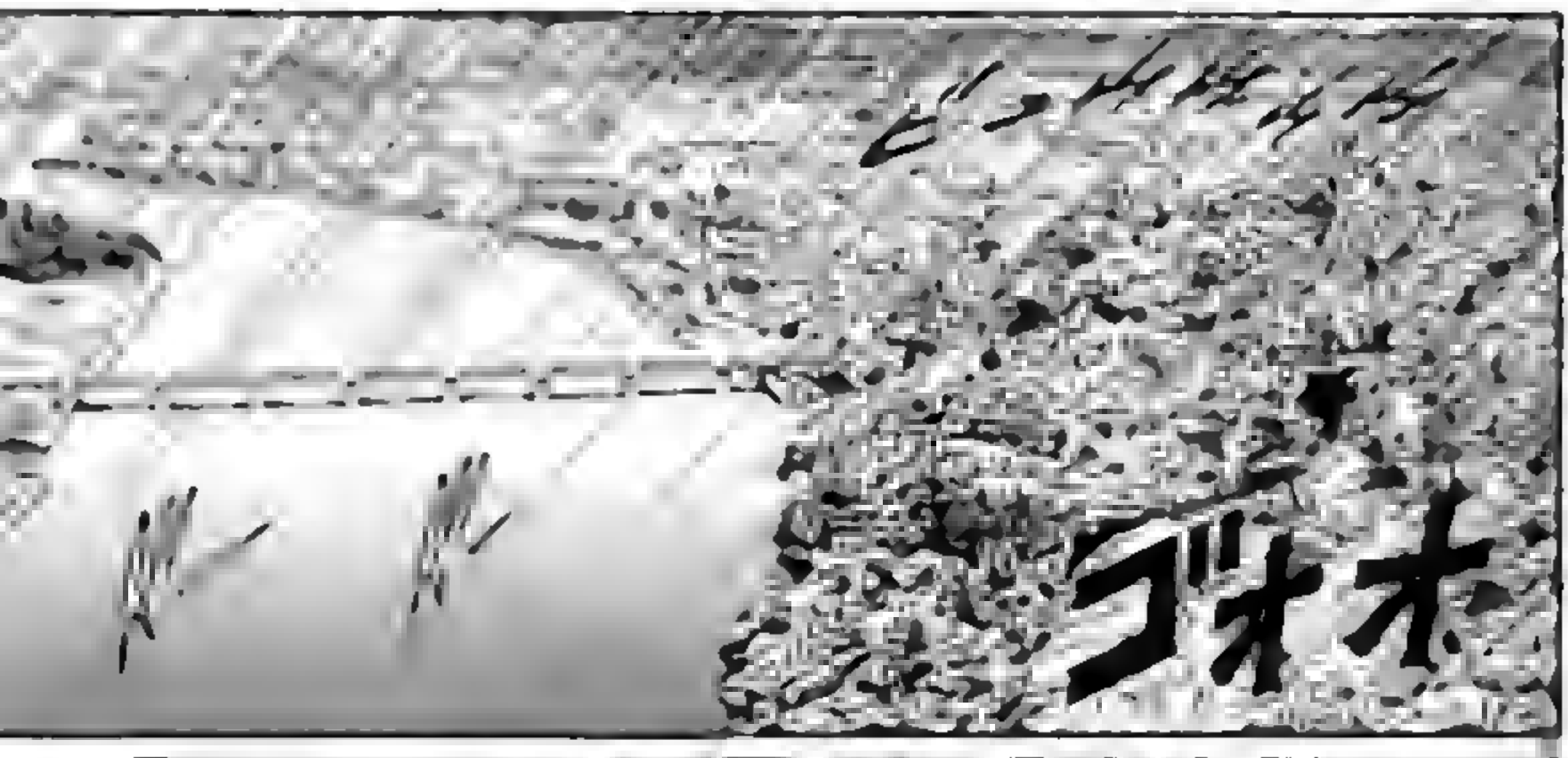

Especially since we're all trapped inside this building until they clear the landslide from the road...
...It doesn't look like the scholars even notice what's going on outside.


It's almost like a meeting of gods...


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, DIRECTOR !?
IT'S NO GOOD! THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THE DAMAGED AREAS OF THE CITY!





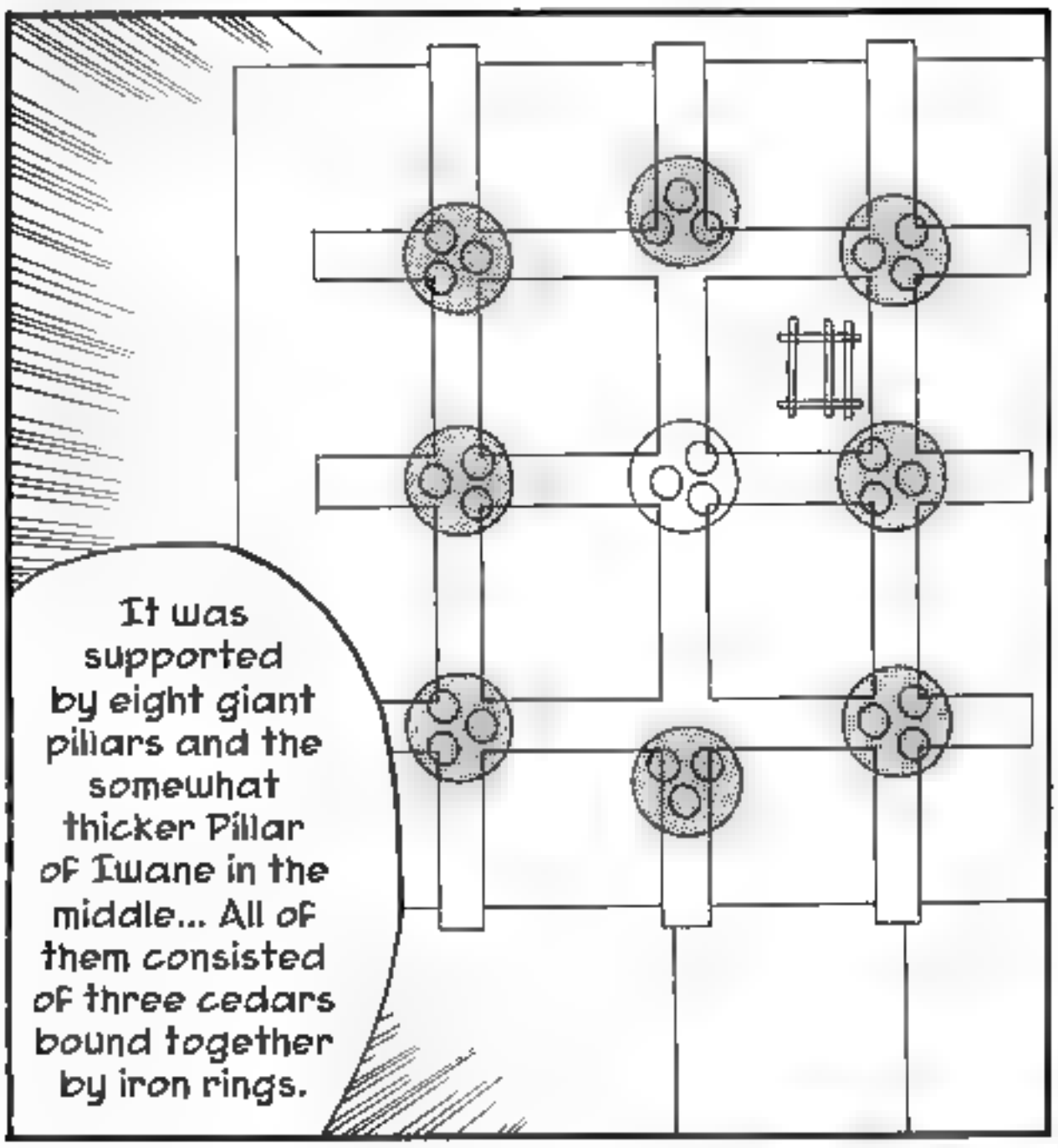

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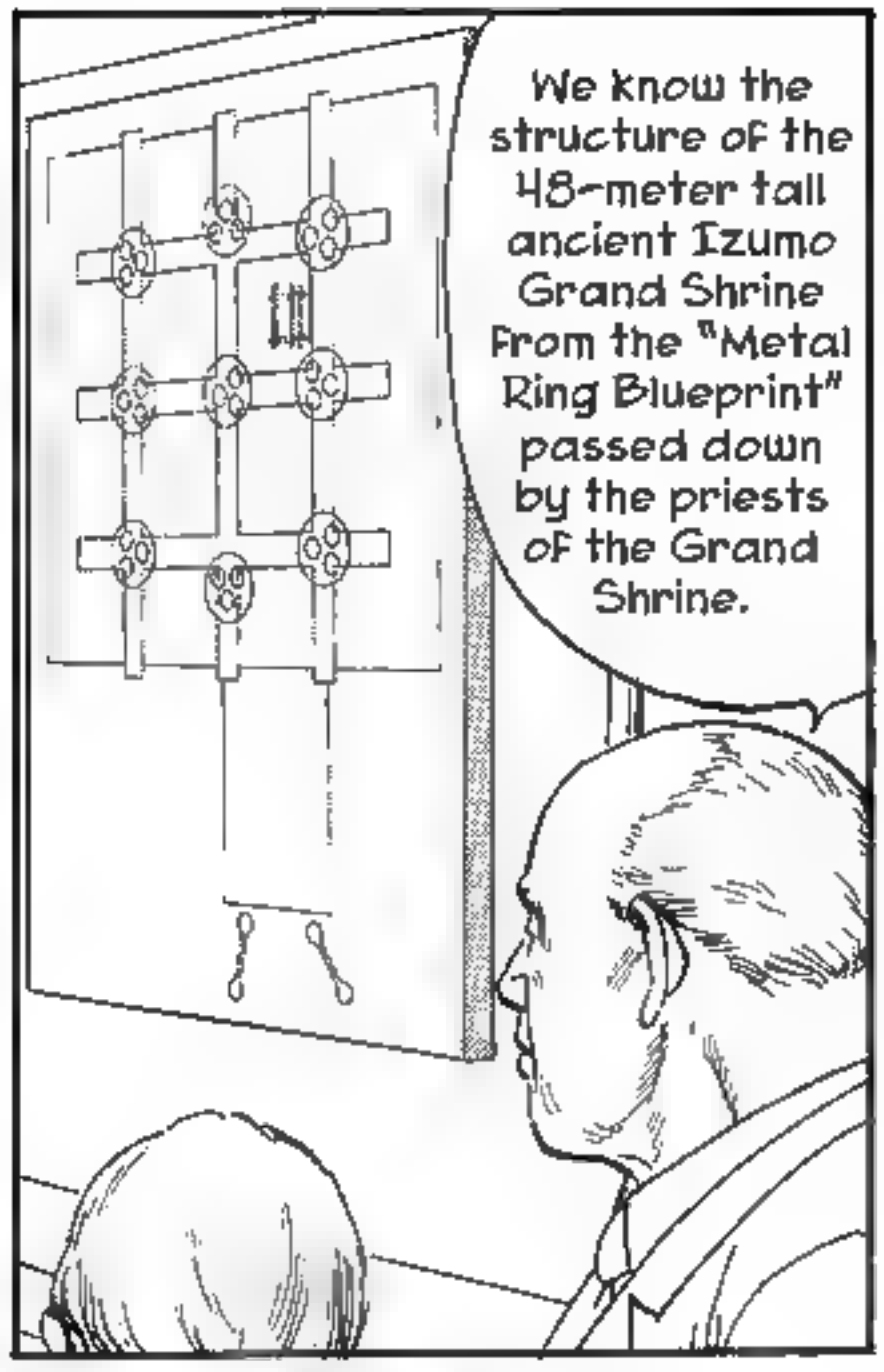

Why was
the cache of
the gods in
Izumo...?

I'd like to know why Izumo was chosen as the place to cache the bronze swords and bells, and to build this super-high-rise sanctuary...

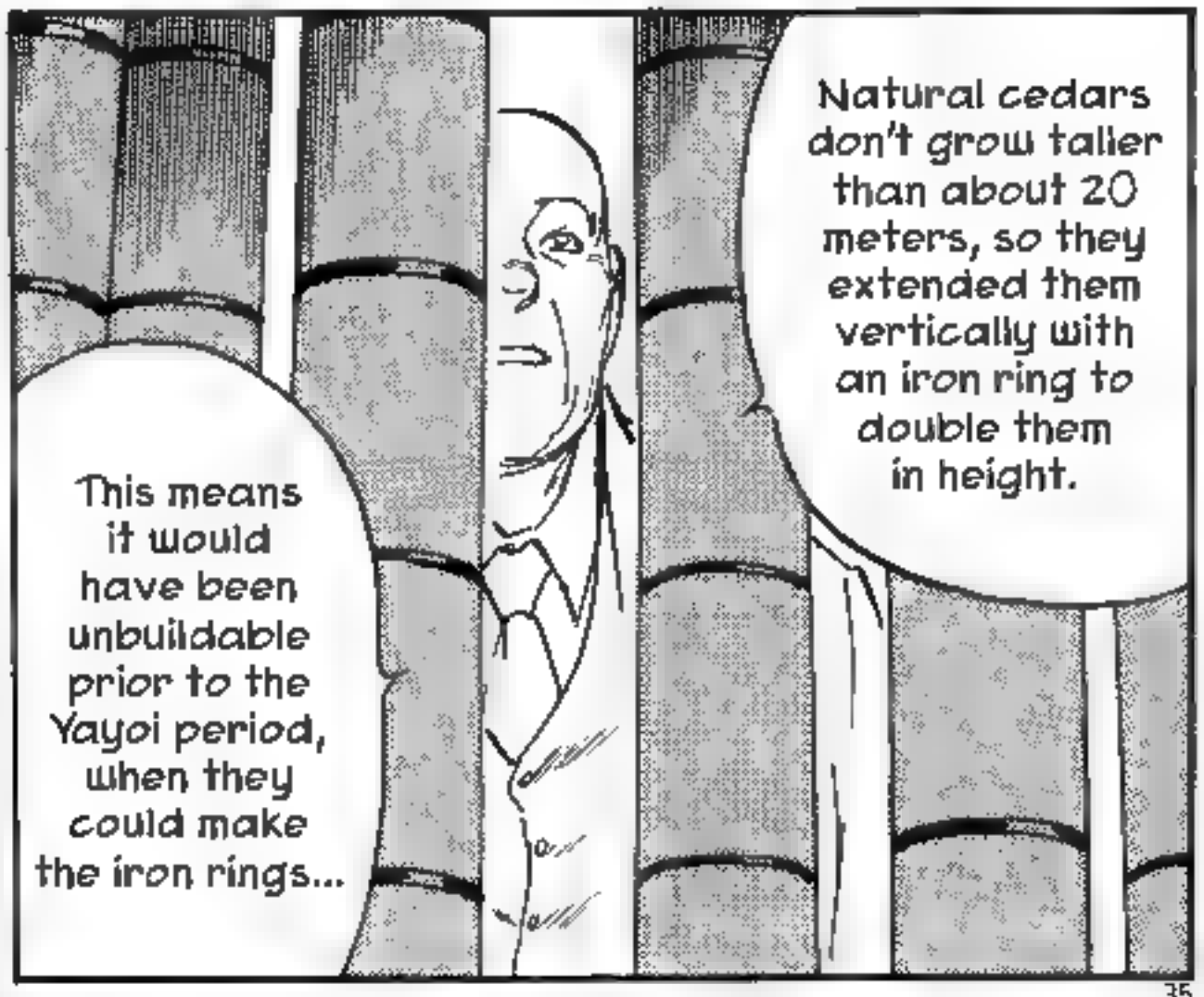
But the ancient Serpent God could have just as easily chosen Mt. Miwa or Suwa.

The ancient Izumo Grand Shrine, said to be built in exchange for Onamuchi yielding the nation of Japan to the Celestial Gods...


It was supported by eight giant pillars and the somewhat thicker Pillar of Iwane in the middle... All of them consisted of three cedars bound together by iron rings.


We know the structure of the 48-meter tall ancient Izumo Grand Shrine from the "Metal Ring Blueprint" passed down by the priests of the Grand Shrine.


.....

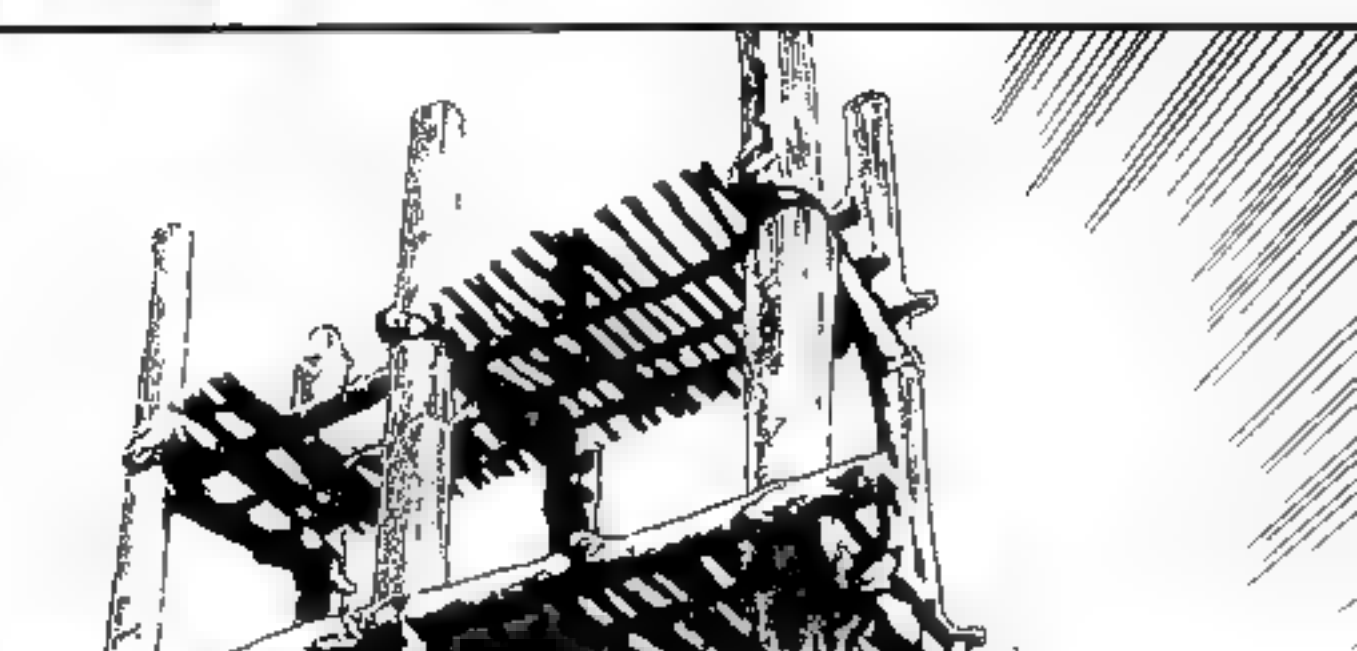

This means it would have been unbuildable prior to the Yayoi period, when they could make the iron rings...
Natural cedars don't grow taller than about 20 meters, so they extended them vertically with an iron ring to double them in height.


The sanctuary I'll call the "Original Izumo Grand Shrine" could have been built in the Jomon Period!
If it was a building that used logs without iron rings...

Original Izumo Grand Shrine!?

The giant pillar structure of Sannai-Maruyama, a Jomon ruin site in Aomori...

This six-pillar arrangement estimated to be 20 meters tall is similar to the ancient Izumo Grand Shrine's support pillars, with the exception of the Iwane and Uzu Pillars.



As is often indicated, the Jomon built high-rise cedar structures quite frequently.

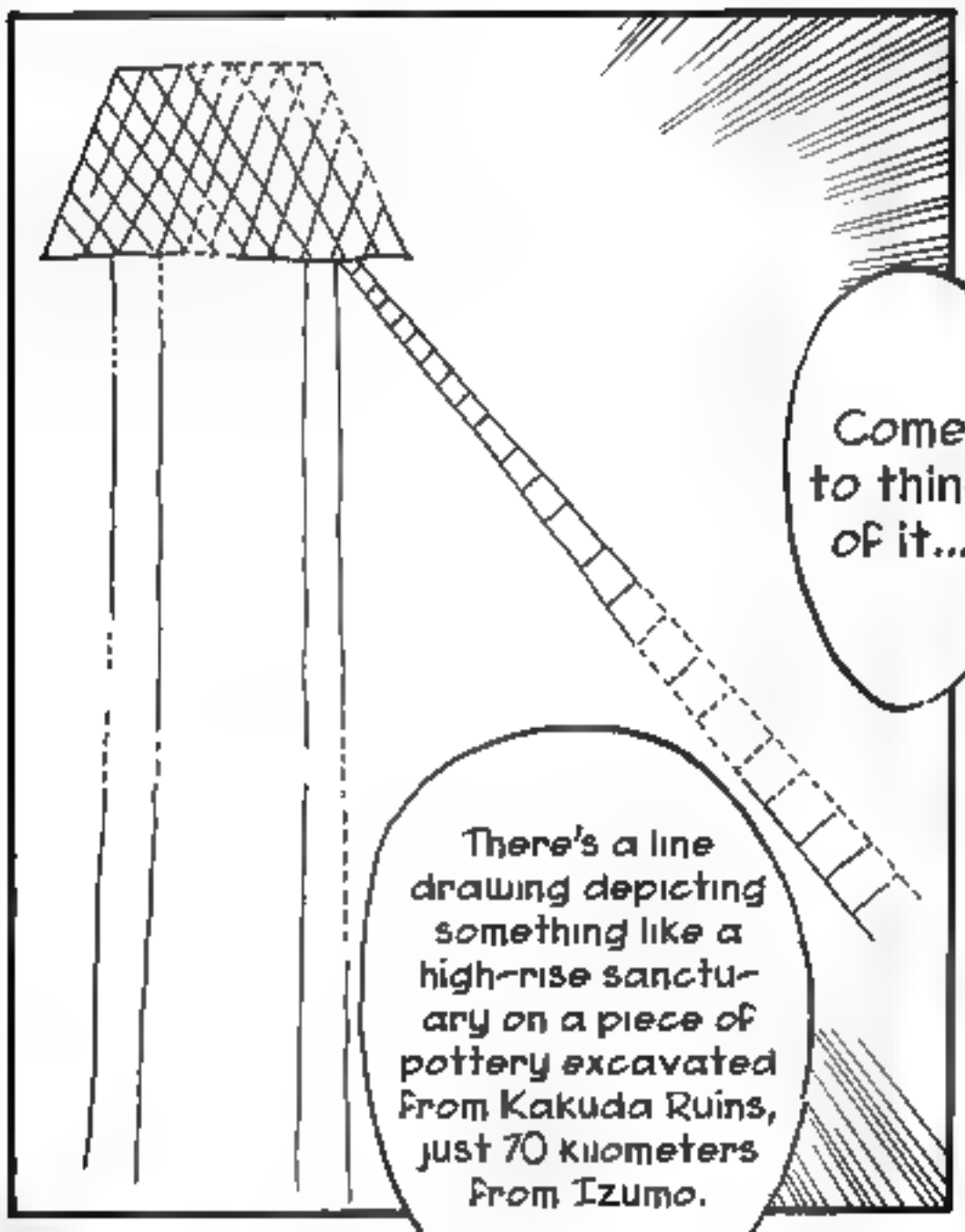
Chikamori Ruins in Ishikawa Prefecture.

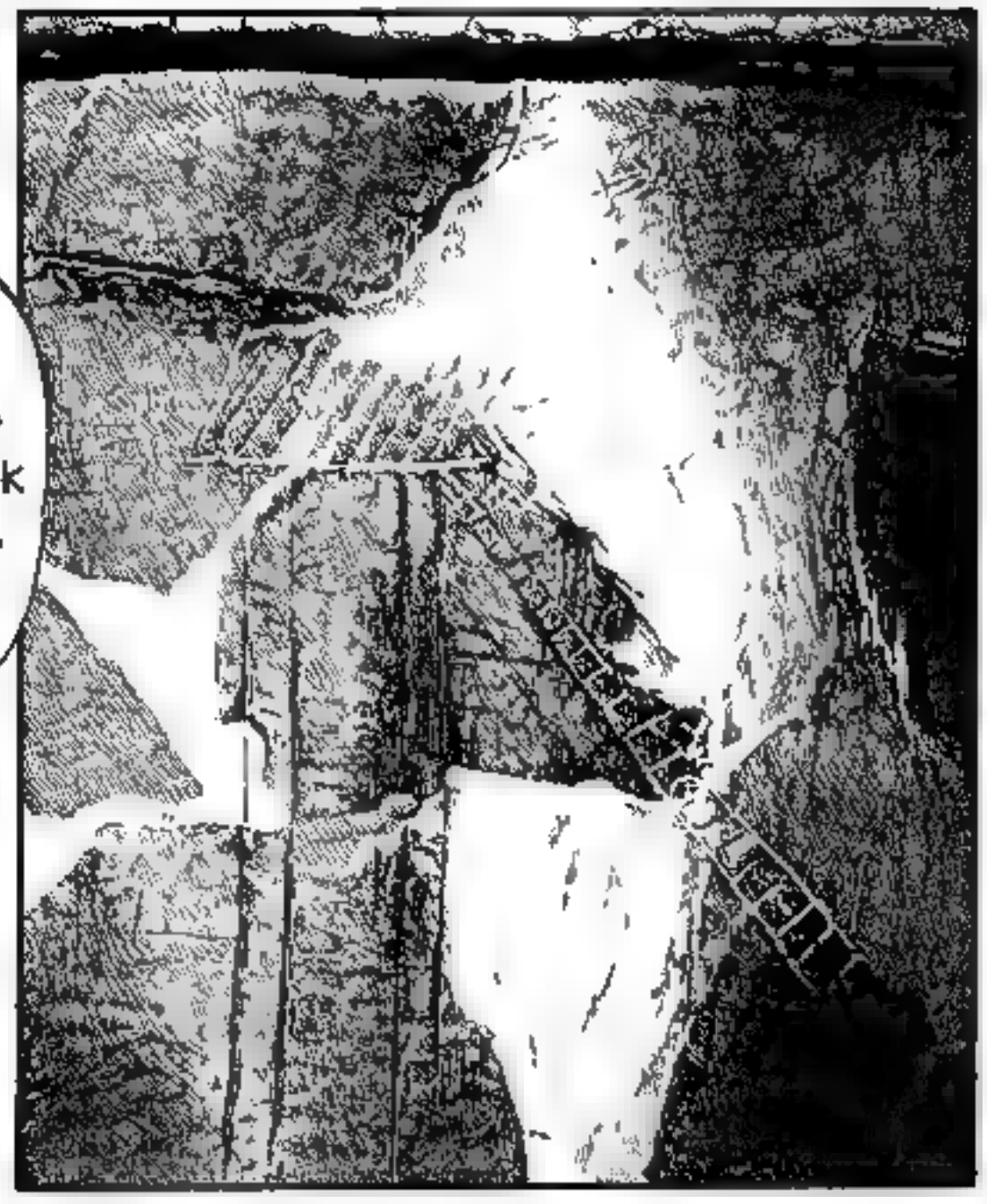
Teraji Ruins in Niigata Prefecture... All of them have cedar structures facing the Sea of Japan, near the shore.

Mawaki Ruins in the same prefecture.

Which means that there's a possibility that it existed in Izumo, which extends from those...

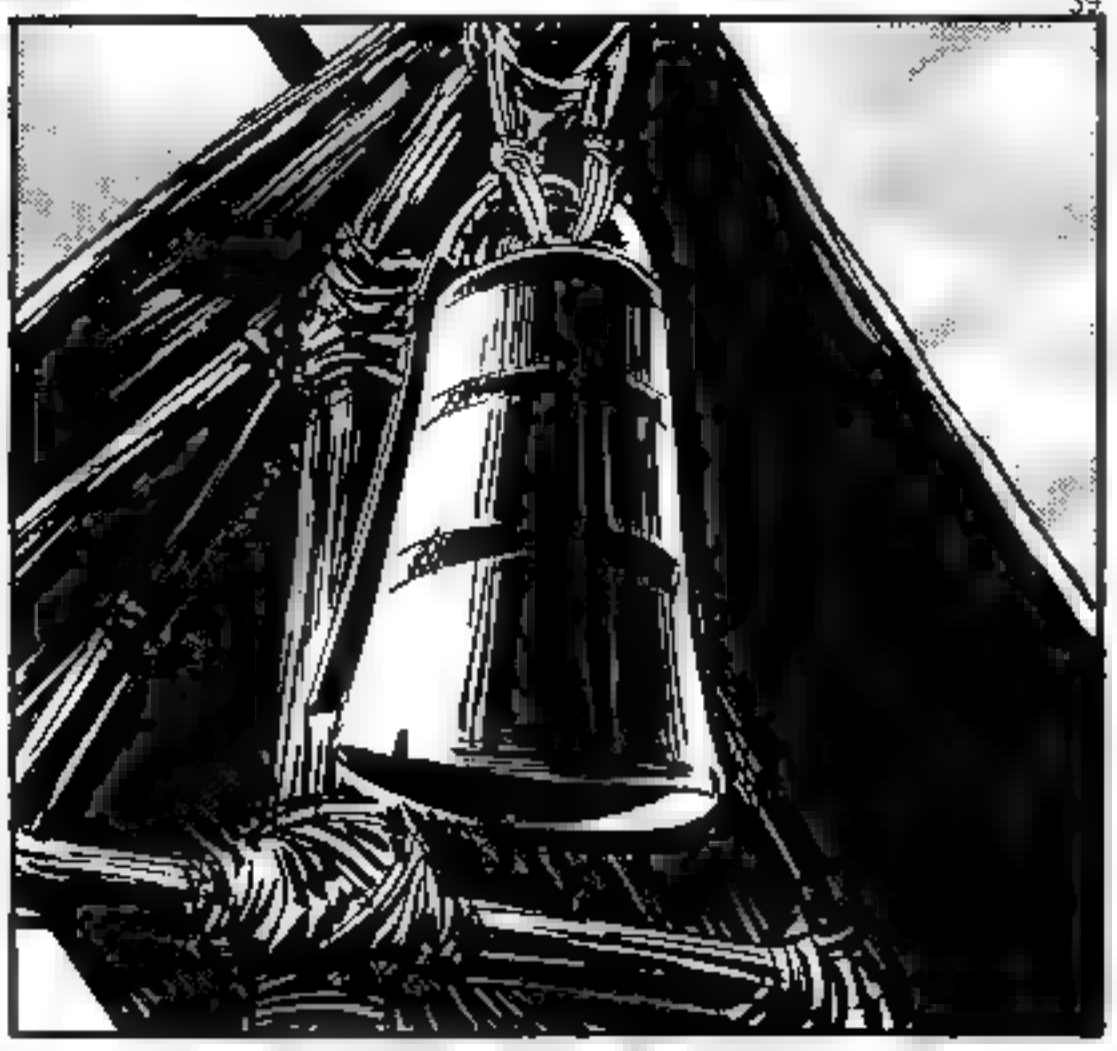
OR, IT COULD BE THAT THE FINAL JOMON SANCTUARY WAS BUILT THERE AS LATE AS THE KOFUN PERIOD!


There's a line drawing depicting something like a high-rise sanctuary on a piece of pottery excavated from Kakuda Ruins, just 70 kilometers from Izumo.


Come to think of it...


This was drawn in the late Yayoi period, meaning it could have been the ancient Izumo Grand Shrine, but it's entirely possible that it depicts the "original Izumo Grand Shrine" that Professor Munakata is theorizing.


I guess we have to assume that the Izumo region was always a center of faith in the old gods...



The Izumo Tribe were a Jomon people that excelled in ancient charms, medicine, and divination. They administered the ritual of bronze bells and swords, and became the cultural center of the coast of the Sea of Japan

They may have had independent cultural exchange with the Korean Peninsula, just across the sea.

But the Yamato Court that worshipped bronze mirrors and gods of agriculture was established, and they eventually clashed.

This may be the truth of the "Nation Yield ing" myth

Then, they built the new ancient Izumo Grand Shrine on the ruins of the Jomon sanctuary

The only way they could quell the wrath of the Izumo Clan whose blood they spilt, and the gods they buried was to build an even higher sanctuary

The rest of it say that the 18 meter ancient Izumo Grand Shrine would eventually collapse

The reconstruction would require incredible amounts of raw materials. They sure were patient to do it over again.

They Feared that the gods they quelled would grow restive, and cause disaster or disease...

They may have Feared the "curse".

Perhaps due to excessive strain on the structure, it collapsed seven times over the 200 year period between the Heian and Kamakura eras

There are records that they would repeatedly engage in a massive scale reconstruction project that would last years every time

Fed up with the repeated collapses, they eventually scaled down the inner sanctuary, and by the Edo Period it appeared just about the way it does today. It was half of its original height

I really need a breather after talking to all those scholars!

It's alright! It's just one!

全館禁煙 NO NO

Hey! Put that out!

SIGN: NO SMOKING

D...Dr. Imibe!? Uhh...

JUST QUIT SMOKING ALREADY!

W...WAIT! WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO LOCK UP THE EN-TRANCES! IF THE WIND GETS IN NOW...

I CAN SMOKE OUT-SIDE, CAN'T I!?







It's a strong odor of dirt. Almost like something spouted out of the ground...

...THIS SMELL... IS IT COMING FROM OUT-SIDE!?

.....

48



I THINK THAT THE LANDSLIDE THAT BLOCKED OFF THE ROAD WAS CAUSED BY THE LOOSENED SOIL!

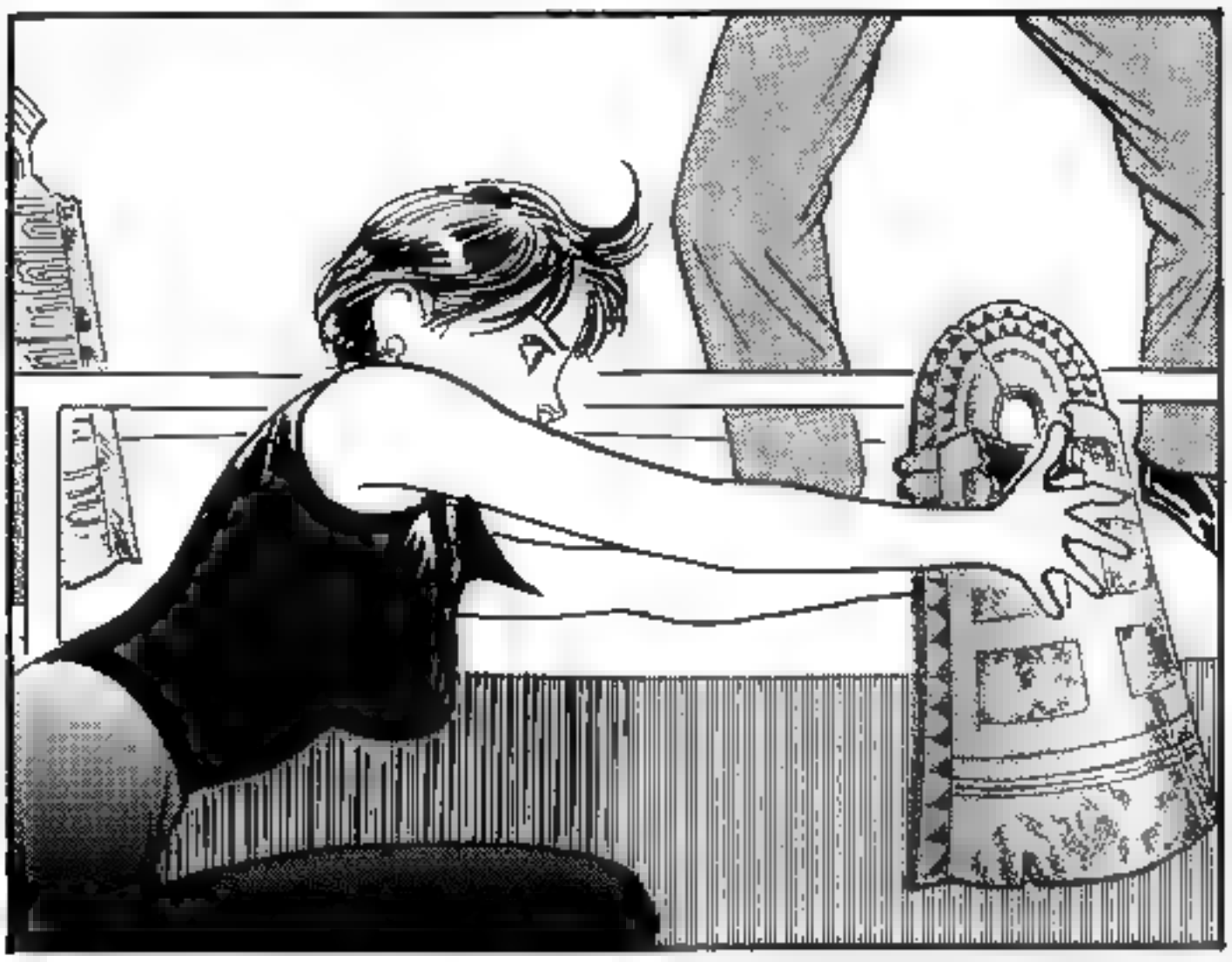
YES, AND NOW THIS TYPHOON'S COME SO SOON AFTER IT...

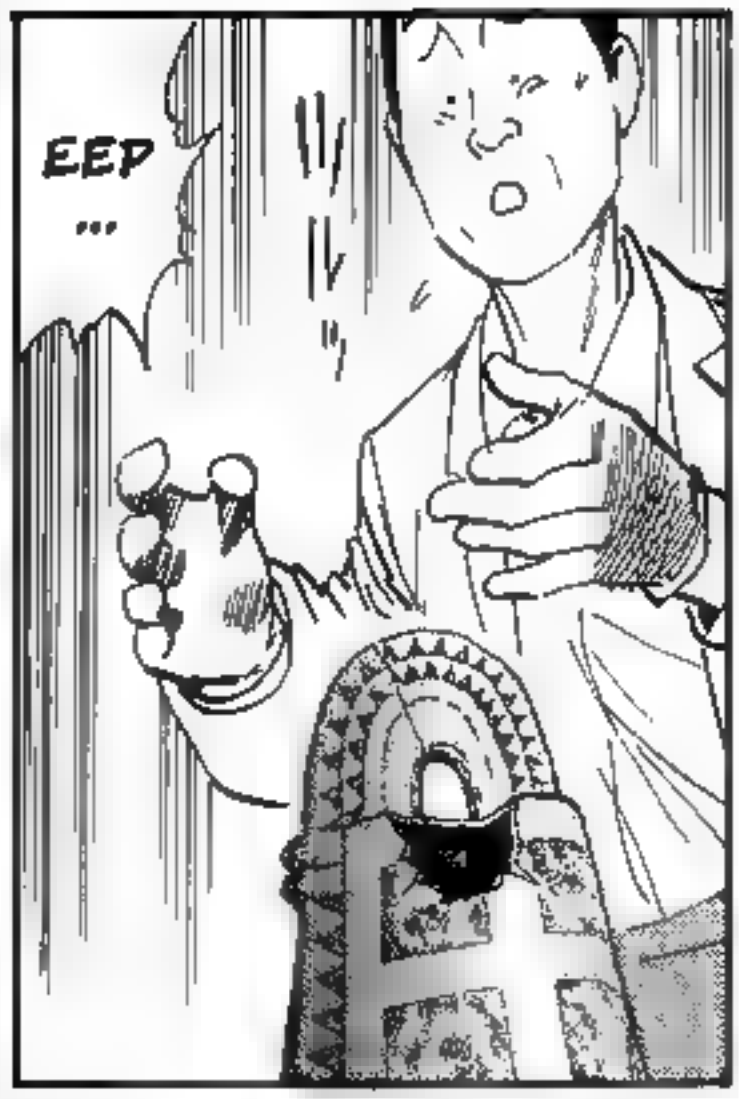
50

YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE MOUNTAIN HAD ABSORBED PLENTY OF RAINWATER IN THE LAST TYPHOON!?


THE GIANT PILLARS OF IZUMO GRAND SHRINE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MT. YAKUMO WERE DISCOV-ERED BECAUSE THEY WERE PRESERVED BY WATER!
THERE'S THE GROUND WATER, TOO! THE ANCIENT IZUMO RIVER USED TO FLOW THROUGH THIS AREA, SO YOU'D FIND WATER IF YOU DIG DOWN JUST A LITTLE BIT!
I'VE HEARD THAT'S A SIGN OF AN AVA-LANCHE!
THERE'S A STRONG SCENT OF MOIST EARTH OUTSIDE...
51


G... GOT IT!
LEAVE THE REPLICAS! JUST TAKE THE ORIGI-NALS, HIRANO!




EEP
...


Y...YOU SHOULD EVACUATE! WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN ...!


LET US HELP YOU OUT!


IT'S ALRIGHT! WE'VE GOT MORE EXPERIENCE HANDLING THESE THINGS THAN YOU!

Hup-
hup!

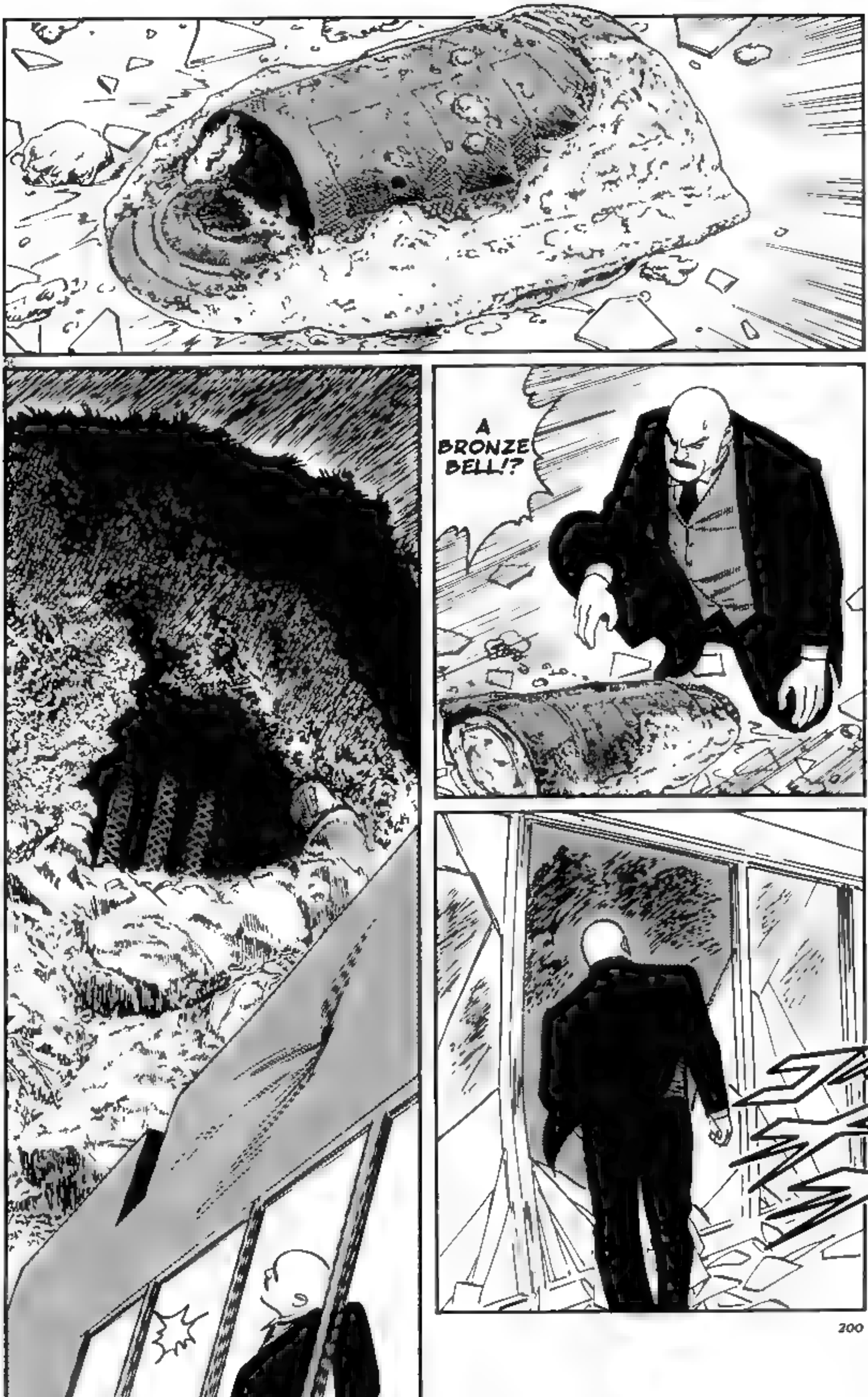
Let's
move!

THE AVALANCHE COULD COME ANY MINUTE NOW. IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, RUN INTO THE PARKING LOT!

I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK.

55

!


A BRONZE BELL!?









KA-KA-KA-

I...IT'S COMING! GET OUT-SIDE!!

THEN WE CAN JUST DIG THEM BACK UP!

T...THERE'S STILL MORE BRONZE BELLS AND SWORDS... THEY'LL BE BURIED UNDER-GROUND!!


I'D EVERYONE ALREADY IF DID EVERYONE GET OUT OF THE BAR- IN-LIT?
WHERE'S PROFES- SOR MU- NAKATA!?

D-D-D-
DR. IMIBE!
W-W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING!?
MT. YAKUMO'S
ABOUT TO...!!

PRO-
FES-
SOR
MU-
NAKA-
TA!?

Urk...


KCCCC
HHHHH!

G...GO BACK! LET'S LEAVE THROUGH THE BROKEN WINDOW!


PROFES-
SOR
MUNA-
KATA!!
63



THE ORIGINAL IZUMO GRAND SHRINE... WAS IT CACHED ALONG WITH THE BRONZE BELLS AND SWORDS...!?

IT HAS EIGHT PILLARS WITH ENGRAVINGS THAT RESEMBLE SCALES, ALMOST LIKE A SNAKE...

IT'S INSIDE MT. YAKUMO, THE DWELLING PLACE OF ONAMUCHI...

YAMATA-NO-OROCHI ...!?

THEN THE YAMATO COURT FEARED THIS OMINOUS SANCTUARY, AND BUILT THE COUNTERFEIT ANCIENT IZUMO GRAND SHRINE IN ITS PLACE...!?

SO THIS WAS THE JOMON SANCTUARY OF THE SERPENT GOD!



68

Hikawa, Hikawa District,
Shimane Prefecture
Mankusen Shrine

And it'll be difficult to excavate the original Izumo Grand Shrine from the forbidden Mt. Yakumo, now that it's been buried again...

Now this is the hard part. Once the clean-up's done we need to reconstruct the Treasure Museum...

69

Oh-ho. I see...

I seem to recall that Mankusen Shrine was the place from which the gods that gathered during the Month of the Gods would return to their lands.

This may be forward of me, but we're willing to become a "god of Izumo" at any time.

God of Izumo ...?

Huh?

This is where we must part, Miss Imibe, but if there is anything we can do for you, let us know.

Ow, ow, ow ...

I mean "mar-riage".

Hahahahahaha...

?

But you need to be quick. We're at the age where we could leave this world at any time...


Well, let's meet again some-day...
Vroooooooom...
Vroooooooom..
Vroooooooom...
After you!
Thank you...
I'll take you to Izumo Airport now...



The Case Records of Professor Munakata Collection 3 – END

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実在の団体・人物・事件などには
一切関係ありません。

◎初出一覧◎

人穴

『ビッグコミック』2005年5月25日号、6月10日号、6月25日号

◆

鬼の来た道

『ビッグコミック』2005年9月10日号、9月25日号、10月10日号

◆

神在月

『ビッグコミック』2005年10月25日号、11月10日号、11月25日号

◎参考資料・協力◎

高崎市教育委員会／『アサヒグラフ別冊　銅鐸の谷』（朝日新聞社）

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CHAPTER 10
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